

Entries

What's Happening and Where To Find It

Here's your newspaper. Number four on the season. Call it payback time across the board as Charlie Fenwick fulfilled a family legacy in riding Askim to victory in the Maryland Hunt Cup, eventing star Phillip Dutton finally won Rolex after five (yes five) second-place finishes in the country's biggest event, and timber stalwart Bubble Economy claimed the biggest win of his career in the Virginia Gold Cup.



PAGES 6-7

Winterthur Steeplechasing

Former flat star Rochester leads a double at Delaware's only steeplechase for Augustin Stable, Sanna Hendriks and Jody Petty.



PAGES 8-11

Striking Gold at Great Meadow

Arcadia Stable's Bubble Economy wins the world's richest timber race to lead a full day of signature performances in front of the D.C. throngs at Great Meadow.



PAGES 15-16

Hunt Cup Hero and Heroine

In the country's oldest steeplechase, Askim gets the job done for jockey Charlie Fenwick III and trainer Ann Stewart.



PAGE 18

Stable Games

Where does your stable fit in steeplechasing's version of fantasy base-ball or football or NASCAR (yes, they have fantasy NASCAR).



PAGES 20-21

Man of Rolex

Phillip Dutton gets a watch with stellar performance by Connaught at Kentucky Horse Park.



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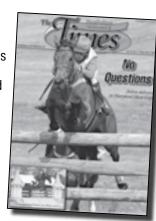
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On the Cover

You want jumping? You got jumping. Askim scales the 13th fence en route to victory in the Maryland Hunt Cup and Connaught flies a show jump in his Rolex-clinching effort with rider Phillip Dutton.

Photos: Doug Lees and Anthony Trollope



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Weather, Or Not

The Foxfield card was shortened by one race this year when officials were forced to cancel the sixth, a \$20,000 maiden claiming hurdle, due to weather. With torrential rain bearing down on the Charlottesville area April 26, race chairman Patrick Butterfield and the Foxfield stewards ruled in favor of safety.

With a few horses already in the paddock for the finale, the impending rain only minutes away and thousands of fans exposed to the elements, Butterfield faced a difficult decision with little time to mull his options.

"I had spoken to a country club that was only about 2 miles down the road and they told me that the storm was coming really quickly. I told the stable area to get the horses back to the barn and then for the people to head to their cars and seek shelter," Butterfield said. "It ended up being the right decision as we got about 2 1/2 inches in about 30 minutes, so it would have been really dangerous. We're in the process of trying to send some money to those that had horses in the race."

NSA director of racing Bill Gallo was on hand, and commended Butterfield and the stewards for putting the welfare of those in attendance, as well as the horses, first.

"It's a decision done in regard to safety. The stewards had access to up-to-the-minute weather reports and it would be wrong to put the horses, riders, and fans at risk," Gallo said. "The ultimate decision lies in the hands of the stewards and the race chairman. It's a very rare situation; I think it happened at Great Meadow six or seven years ago because of impending weather, and at Red Bank (in New Jersey) we were forced to cancel the whole card one year."

Bug River retired

Two-time Maryland Hunt Cup winner Bug River, who also finished second in the race twice, has been retired by owner Northwoods Stable and trainer Regina Welsh after being scratched from the 2008 Hunt Cup due to a bruised foot.

Bug River, 15, won the Hunt Cup in 2004 and 2006 and placed second in 2005 and 2007 as part of an NSA career that included at least one start in seven consecutive seasons. The Maryland-bred raced on the flat as a 2-year-old (back in 1995) and won three races in a flat career that included seven stakes starts. All told, he earned better than \$200,000 in 33 lifetime starts – flat and jumps. Welsh called the decision the end of an era, but also felt relief.

"I cried my eyes out and was real sad when I came to the conclusion that we had to scratch," she said. "Once I made the scratch, I was fine with it. We had a great run with a wonderful horse."

Plagued by tender feet, Bug River moves on to the good life as a retiree.

"He'll be an appearance horse," said Welsh. "Make an appearance, look good for people and then go back to the field or the barn."

Good Ideas

Kudos to Winterthur for two forward-thinking moves – free programs for all and a unique raffle based on the winners of the five races on the day. Nice job (though ST was hoping to win the big-screen TV). The more fans that actually pay attention to the races the better.

Worth Repeating

"My hair's on fire."

Willowdale's Laurie Prysock, on the stress level of a race director two weeks before the meet

"My client is unable to answer your questions at this early stage of the evening. If you'd like to come back at 10 o' clock, he'll spill the beans."

Richard Hutchinson, self-appointed press agent for jockey Xavier Aizpuru, to a reporter at the Virginia Gold Cup

News and Notes from around the circuit FOR STARTERS



Tod Marks

DOGS DAY. Duke (left) and Dasher took a break with owner Sally Brittle at Winterthur May 4. The Labradors had a great day – even working as unofficial tailgate-party judges. "Someone gave them each a hot dog up on the hill early, so they walked around all day with high expectations," said Brittle.

"I've got a fat lip and a bloody nose, so I don't think I'm going to have much of a modelling career when I finish. I had all the contracts and they took one look at my fat lip and tore them up."

Aizpuru, on his condition after getting body checked by Swagger Stick at Great Meadow

Ann Stewart after winning the Maryland Hunt Cup with Askim: "This is too much for a little old lady."

Reporter: "You're not old."
Stewart: "I'm a lot younger now."

"All my classmates and friends from the area are so sick and tired of coming out here and seeing me lose. Now they don't have to come back. They might not sell as many parking passes next year."

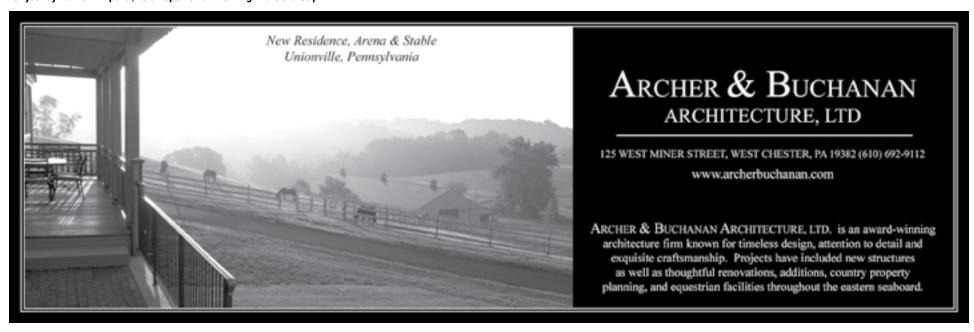
Jockey Charlie Fenwick III, after winning the Maryland Hunt Cup on his fifth try

"I got to the office at 6:30 and I haven't even looked at my desk."

Fenwick, on the depth of his voice- and e-mail in-boxes
two days after the Maryland Hunt Cup

Take A Number

- **41:** Consecutive Maryland Hunt Cups attended by veteran steeplehase photographer Doug Lees. He's seen them all from Haffaday to Askim.
- **15:** Jockeys that have ridden Bubble Economy in his 42 flat and jump starts from Mike Luzzi to Chip Miller.
- **8:** Hunt Cups won by three trainers (John Fisher, Ann Stewart and Tom Voss) caught in a conversation after the 2008 race.
- **2:** Consecutive years Augustin Stable and Sanna Hendriks swept the two main timber races at Winterthur. In 2007, the horses were Move West and Noble Bob; this year, South Monarch and Rochester did the honors.
- **2:** Consecutive wins by New Zealand-bred horses in the Maryland Hunt Cup The Bruce in 2007 and Askim in 2008.



Askim (NZ) wins Maryland Hunt Cup



Douglas Lees

Congratulations to Irv Naylor, Ann Stewart and Charlie Fenwick III from the Maryland Hunt Cup Association

Thanks to all participants, volunteers and spectators for a great day of racing.

Please join us next year for the 113th running of The Maryland Hunt Cup.

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Funny Former flat star Rochester makes

it 2-for-2 as Augustin takes a pair

BY JOE CLANCY

WILMINGTON, Del. - Jody Petty laughed, but you would too.

"It's nice to jump the last head-andhead and know you're on a horse that can sprint to the wire like he can. He wasn't going to get beat."

Rochester, Petty's mount in the \$20,000 open timber, improved to 2-for-2 in a brief timber career by outrunning Tacloban in the stretch of the feature at the Winterthur Races May 4. And added \$12,000 to his more than \$1.2 million in lifetime earnings. A multiple graded-stakes winner on the flat for Augustin Stable, the 12-year-old converted to timber as part of an active retirement and looked like he enjoyed it at Winterthur - eight days after his maiden win at Foxfield.

"I don't know how many races I've ridden around here but it's fast, it's rapid," said Petty. "I don't think Rochester touched a fence. He got down to the bottom of a couple but he arched up over them, landed running, didn't lose an ounce of ground. That's phenomenal. Two starts into it – do you say that's class, do you say that's talent? I

WINTERTHUR RACES

Sunday, May 4

don't know. All I know is he has it."

But he had to work for it. Rochester relaxed early before moving to the front after the second-last fence in the 3 1/4-mile test. Tacloban (Willie Dowling) joined him on the final turn and the two met the last together. Rochester, whose career includes starts at Keeneland, Churchill Downs, Gulfstream Park, Hollywood Park, Belmont Park and others, prevailed by a half-length. Tacloban, eighth and 13th in his only

covered the distance in 6:48 3/5. Hendriks, who took over for Jonathan Sheppard, didn't sweat the outcome as much as she did the horse's

two flat starts, settled for second with

Haddix (Carl Rafter) third. The winner

"It's a little nerve-wracking because he's a household name - everybody knows him," she said. "If anything bad were to happen I would be severely criticized but the horse loves it. He loves to train, he loves to jump, he just really enjoys it. I feel like he's happy. He's got



Rochester (right, Jody Petty) jumps with Haddix early in the open timber at Winterthur.

a fairly easy life. I know it's not really retirement because he's racing, but it seems like a form of retirement. Any horse that's done what he's done obviously enjoys the racing."

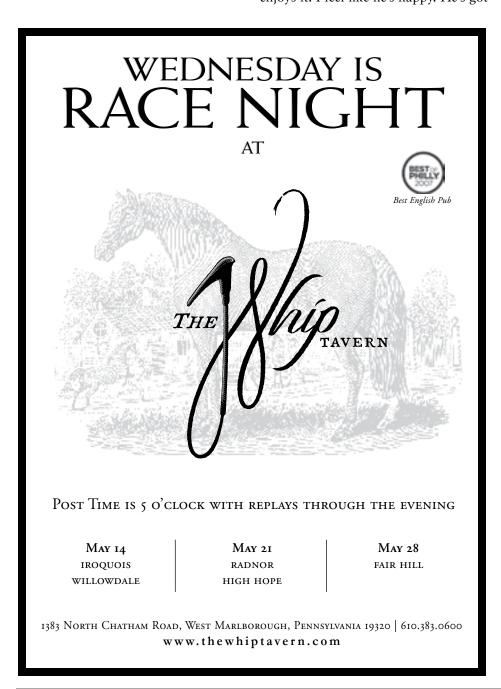
Rochester left Sheppard's in December 2006 and went immediately to Unionville, Pa., horseman Dave Leinhauser for conversion to a foxhunter with timber a long-distance proposition. Rochester took to it like a Penn-Marydel, and spent the 2007 and 2008 seasons in the Cheshire hunt field.

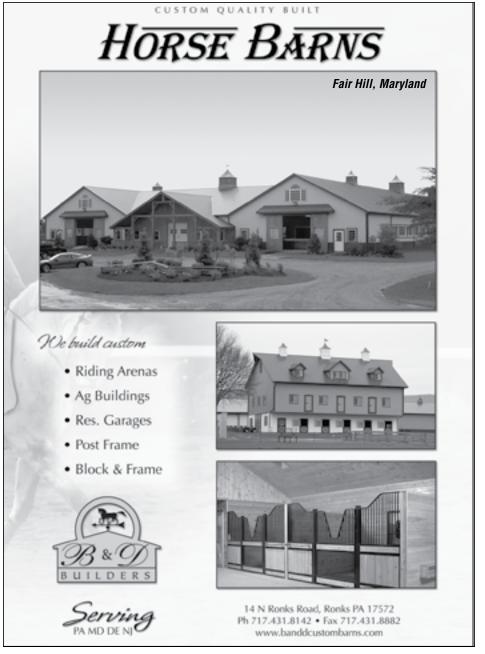
Hendriks took over for good March 1, with an idea of making the horse a

timber mount for her brother Stewart Strawbridge – maybe. Step one, Foxfield. Step two, Winterthur. Step three, who knows?

"I think he might be a really good timber horse and after Foxfield I thought about taking him to Nashville but that's just stupid, that's a hot race, they'll be wing-dinging around there, so that's why we came (to Winterthur)," Hendriks said. "Now he'll have a really easy time, he'll get turned out and basically do nothing. We probably won't even run him this fall. We'll see.

See **WINTERTHUR** page 7 ▶





Winterthur

■ Continued from page 6

 Augustin, Hendriks and Petty started their day with a \$10,000 maiden timber win in the first. First-year timber horse South Monarch rated early, fought to the front approaching the 15th of 17 fences and then shucked off a challenge from High Watermark (Calvin McCormack) to win by 2 3/4 lengths in 6:54 4/5. Scuba Steve (Carl Rafter) rallied for third.

Off in 2007 with leg problems, South Monarch won over hurdles at Radnor in 2006 – an indication of future timber prowess according to Petty.

"He always jumped hurdles too well - from 10 strides away you knew where he was going to leave from," said the jockey. "There's more jumping at Radnor than most places so that's why he won there. You wouldn't look at him and say 'oh wow, that's a timber horse' because he doesn't have the strongest build but he certainly seemed to handle it well."

• Owner/rider George Hundt Jr. picked up his third career NSA victory

in the third, a \$5,000 highweight amateur timber, with Michele Marieschi.

Rated at the back of the six-horse field early, the winner responded when given some rein in the final mile and scored by a length over Messomania (James Stierhoff) with Straight Path (Shane Burke) third. Trained by Richard Valentine, the winner covered the 3 1/4 miles in 6:42 3/5.

Hundt deflected all credit to his horse, an 11-year-old English import.

"He's all class and as long as I keep him interested he'll run well," said Hundt. "At the Manor (where they finished sixth of eight after being last early) I didn't and it was my fault. Here I just kept him interested and pushed a button. I didn't want to go to the front so soon because I'm afraid of the front but we worked it out."

• Training flat races closed the card, with Male Supremacy (Alex McKee) taking the Amateur Riders Club of America race at 2 miles for owner/trainer Nannette Robertson (the jockey's mother). Gene Weymouth's Fieldview (Petty) won the finale, a 1 3/4-mile race open to all jockeys, for Hendriks.



Tod Marks

Michele Marieschi (George Hundt) flies the last on the way to a win at Winterthur.

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Winterthur Races

Winterthur, Del. Sunday, May 4. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$10,000. Maiden timber, 3 1/4 miles.

1. South Monarch L 165 Petty 2. High Watermark 165 McCormack 165 Rafter 3. Scuba Steve 4. Ice Is Nice L 160 Burke 5. Antonio Star 160 Gillam 6. General Roanoke 165 Walsh

L 165 Young

8. Sandyland 160 Chalfin 9. Hello Jerry 165 Durkee PU. Jamaica Me Laugh L 165 Miller

Mgn: 2 3/4. Time: 6:54 4/5. O: Augustin Stable. T: Sanna Hendriks. Dk. B/Br g. 6 Conquistador Cielo-Just A Bird, Storm Bird.

Bred by George Strawbridge (ONT).

7. Floor Play

2nd. \$20,000. Open timber, 3 1/4 miles.

1. Rochester 2. Tacloban L 150 Dowling 3. Haddix F. Hall Of Angels L 160 Rafter L 155 McCormack Mgn: 1/2. Time: 6:48 3/5.

O: Augustin Stable. T: Sanna Hendriks. B. g. 12 Green Dancer-Central City, Mining. Bred by George Strawbridge (PA).

3rd. \$5,000. Hwt. allow. timber, 3 1/4 miles. NW \$9,000 once 2007-08; Amateur Jockeys

1. Michele Marieschi (GB) L 180 Hundt 170 Stierhoff Messomania 3. Straight Path L 180 Burke 4. Hotspur L 180 Ryan 170 Cochran 5. Quaremba L 170 Gillam PU. Bad Dog Press

Mgn: 1 1/4. Time: 6:42 3/5. O: Anna Stable. T: Richard Valentine. B. g. 11 Alzao-Escape Path, Wolver Hollow. Bred by Hugo Merry & Michael Stanley (GB).

4th. ARCA Training flat. 2 miles.

Amateur Jockeys

emacv L 165 McKee 1. Male Supremacy 2. Bold Quest L 165 Durkee 3. Decisive Play L 165 Slater 4. Can't Find My Keys (Ire) 165 Chalfin 5. Wave Warrior L 165 Chubb Mgn: 2 1/4. Time: 4:29 3/5. O/T: Nannette Robertson.

Ch. g. 8 Awad-Dante's Dancer, Northern Jove. Bred By Helmore Farm (MD).

5th. Training flat. 1 3/4 miles.

1. Fieldview 155 Petty Heros Among Us L 155 Chubb 3. La Marseillaise

Mgn: 1 3/4. Time: 3:33 1/5. O: Eugene Weymouth. T: Sanna Hendriks. B. g. 5 Charismatic-Opportunity, Cox's Ridge. Bred By Eugene Weymouth (PA).

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Golden 4

Bubble Economy wins high-stakes shootout

BY JAMIE SANTO

THE PLAINS, Va. - Deacon Jones, Merlin Olsen, Rosey Grier and Lamar Lundy used to charge across the line of scrimmage for the old Los Angeles Rams. The 83rd Virginia Gold Cup produced its own Fear-some Foursome, as Bubble Economy, Miles Ahead, Hot Springs and Monte Bianco stormed across the finish line in the world's richest timber race.

After 4 miles, 23 fences and one furious stretch battle, less than a length separated the four combatants. Bubble Economy seized the Cup for Arcadia Stable and trainer Jack Fisher. Miles Ahead (Chris Read) clocked in just a half-length behind the winner, with Hot Springs (Willie Dowling) a neck back in third, a head in front of Monte Bianco (Xavier Aizpuru).

"There's nothing better than a good timber horse," said winning jockey Chip Miller.

Except maybe a great timber race.

A field of nine met the starter for the \$100,000 feature, headlined by past timber champions Miles Ahead (a two-time Gold Cup winner) and Bubble Economy. Move West set a comfortable pace on the lead while the others collected contentedly behind. Though the pack shuffled, the scene remained much the same entering the final circuit.

Then Straight Gin fell at the 19th, King Lear pulled up, and Move West headed south approaching the



Tod Marks

Bubble Economy (center, Chip Miller) gets to the line first over Miles Ahead (right), Hot Springs (left) and Monte Bianco.

last, setting up a four-way battle on even terms at the last. Or almost even terms.

Miller, who won the 2007 Gold Cup in a photo aboard the Fisher-trained Salmo, had saved a little something for later, though with a circuit to go he had to remind himself to do so as the pace quickened around him.

"You can't win a timber race a mile from home," he said. "I was sitting comfortably and he was going so well he traveled up to fourth. But I gave him a tug and got him a breather."

Still deep in the field at the 19th, where the race often revs up to speed, Bubble Economy nearly came to grief when Straight Gin fell in front of him. As if the fallen horse was another fence, Bubble Economy merely patted the ground and took to the air again.

"It was like an in-and-out," said Miller. "I thought we were going to fall. He landed over the fence and jumped again.'

Dodging that disaster, Bubble Economy launched his bid and the little extra Miller saved proved valuable in the stretch. Even the Equibase chart-caller noted that in the four-way finale, it was "Bubble Economy finishing with the most reserve of energy."

See **GOLD CUP** page 9 ▶



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Karasi

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Meadow

American stakes winner

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Aussies



Gold Cup -

■ Continued from page 8

Despite putting on another signature performance and winning the 206th race of his career, Miller (in just his second mount of the 2008 season) gave all credit to his first-time mount.

"As a jockey, you'd like to think you had something to do with it," he said, "but it was all him."

The 9-year-old son of Rakeen certainly deserved the praise, as his competitors were on their games as well. Miles Ahead, who took the race in 2005 and 2006, once again put on a jumping clinic. Hot Springs proved his Manor victory last month was no fluke and the Fisher-trained Monte Bianco put in a rousing effort off breaking his maidenbreaker at Camden in March.

"Miles went great – he jumped the best he ever jumped for me," said jockey Chris Read. "We flew the last fence, and I think we actually had the lead. Bubbles just fought back. We just got beat by a better horse."

Bred in Pennsylvania by the steeplechase connected Nina and Tim Gardner (who have campaigned horses with Miller as a trainer) and Rick and Dixie Abbott (he's on the NSA appeals committee and is the brother of NSA president Franny Abbott), Bubble Economy sold at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic (for \$50,000) as a yearling in 2000.

He started seven times on the flat for Klaravich Stable and trainer Rick Violette before being sold as a winless 3-year-old in August 2002 off a seventh (at 52-1) in a Saratoga maiden race.

Fisher hit fast forward, and Bubble Economy made his hurdle debut the



Douglas Lees

Bubble Economy (left) jumps alongside J. Alfred Prufrock and Monte Bianco early in the race.

next month with a second at Shawan Downs. He broke his maiden at Colonial Downs the next year, but by November was relegated to a 3-mile hurdle for amateur jockeys. He won that and a similar race the next spring at Stoneybrook, before switching to timber for good by winning the Mason Houghland Memorial at Nashville that May.

He lost his next nine starts, gaining a reputation for being good enough to finish second or third (eight times), but not good enough to win. That skid ended in 2006 at Shawan Downs.

Last year, the horse won the Grand National, but also finished second in the Manor and Ski Roundtop and refused to jump the first fence in the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup.

Fisher never hides his opinion.

"He only tried 60 percent (at the Gold Cup) and still won," said Fisher, who won his 10th Gold Cup as a trainer. "If he had tried 100 percent throughout his career he would have won over a million dollars."

Still, Bubble Economy has now won six timber races (including stakes scores in the Gold Cup, Grand National, Houghland and Ski Roundtop) and has pocketed \$260,700 for Arcadia. The bonus for Fisher's complaints about effort (or lack thereof) might be longevity as Bubble Economy has made at least two steeplechase starts in the past seven seasons.

Additional reporting by Joe Clancy.

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Virginia Gold CupThe Plains, Va. Saturday, May 3. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$25,000. Maiden hurdle. 2	? 1/2 miles.	
1. Run The Lightl	L154	Read
2. Dynaskil	L154	Slater
3. Sword Of Dubai l		
4. Beech Cay I	L140	Petty
5. Sefa Player		
6. Delta Parkl		
F. Fershawl		
LR. Coupe De Ville I	L140	Hodsdon
LR. News Flashl		
OC. Right Hand Redl		
PU. Plum Brushl		
Mgn: 4 1/4. Time: 5:05 2/5. O: k	Kinross Farm. T: Neil Mo	rris
Ch. g. 7, Tabasco Cat-Green Ligh	ht, Sheikh Albadou.	
Bred by Edward P. Evans (VA).	•	
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2nd. \$25,000. Open timber.	3 miles.	Steeplethon cou	ırse (varied fences)
1. Hidden Key	L	155	Young
2. Private Attack	L	155	Santoro

		•
2. Private Attack	L155	.Santoro
3. Battle Op	155	.Durkee
4. Kilbreena (Ire)	L155	.Slater
5. Te Akau Five (NZ)	L155	.Murphy
6. Why Not Baby		
LR. Irish Laddie		
PU. Ghost Bar	L150	.Carter
Mgn: Head. Time: 6:01 4/5. 0: A	Al Griffin. T: Doug Fout.	
Ch. g. 8 Corridor Key-Hidden Myst		Paul Fout (KY).

3rd. \$30,000. Allowance (NW2X) hurdle. 2 1/2 miles.

Jiu. 450,000. Alluwalice (NWZ	.A) Huluic. 2 1/2 Hillics.	
1. Be Certain	L138	Whelan
2. Lead Us Not	L156	Slater
3. Orpington	L152	Dowling
4. Zhukov (NZ)		
5. Sweep Domino (Chi)		
6. Dejavualloveragàin		
7. Belknap County		
LR. Swagger Stick		
PU. Lot One (Ire)		
PU. Tax Ruling		
Mgn: Neck. Time: 4:58 4/5 0: Al		
Ch. g. 4 Thunder Gulch-Do Mou	intain Doo, Mountain Cat.	
Bred by Sugar Maple Farm (NY)		
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		

4th. \$20,000. Starter allowance hurdle. 2 1/2 miles. Claiming price \$30,000 or less In 2007-08

1. Duke Of Earl (Ire)l	L154	Aizpuru
2. Mark The Shark I	L146	Dowling
3. Four Schools (Ire)	146	McWade
4. Najjml	L141	McVicar
5. Kirimbail	L146	Walsh
6. Ordered To Listen I	L132	Hodsdon
LR. Motel Affair I	L154	Whelan
Mgn: 1. Time: 4:59 2/5. 0: Ann S	Stern T: Jack Fisher.	
Ch. g. 9 Ali-Royal-Faye, Monsan	to. Bred by Noel Finegan	(Ire).

5th. \$100,000. Timber stakes. 4 miles.

otiii. wioo,ooo. Tiiiiboi otakoo.	T 1111100.	
The Vii	rginia Gold Cup	
1. Bubble Economy I	L165	Miller
2. Miles Ahead	L165	Read
3. Hot Springs I	L165	Dowling
4. Monte Bianco (Ire) I	L165	Aizpuru
5. Move WestI		
6. Erin Go Bragh (NZ)I		
7. J. Alfred Prufrock I		
F. Straight Gin	L165	McCormack
PU. King Lear		
Mgn: Half. Time: 8:48. O: Arcadi		
B. G. 9 Rakeen-Buffels, Vaal Ree		
Bred By Dr. & Mrs. Timothy Gar		Abbott (PA).

6th. \$20,000. Maiden claiming hurdle. 2 1/2 miles. \$30,000-\$25,000 claiming price

\$30,000-\$25	5,000 claiming price	
1. Strathspey Kino (GB) I	L137	Petty
2. Expel I		
3. Bullet Dancer I		
4. Ole Boy	L144	Read
5. Meshwaarl		
6. Mornin' Eddie I	L148	Dowling
7. New Point	L151	Mackenzie
8. I'lltellyounolies	148	McGann
9. Prancing Cat	L148	Young
LR. Questioning		
PU. Ninety Day Note		
PU. Meadow Larking		
PU. Glide King		
PU. Ravens Fan		
Mgn: 3 1/4. Time: 4:58 2/5. 0: T	odd Wyatt Stable. T: Tod	d Wyatt.
Ch. g. 4 Dancing Spree-Jukino.	Relking, Bred By J.H. Wo	ood (GB).

Light Show

Kinross maiden, other stars lead the way on Gold Cup undercard

BY JAMIE SANTO

THE PLAINS, Va. - As a son of a Belmont Stakes winner, Run The Light always wanted a little more distance. During his flat career, his connections "couldn't find a race long enough for him," said jockey Chris Read.

He got 2 1/2 miles (along with 15 hurdles) in the Great Meadow opener and got the desired result, breaking his maiden for Read, trainer Neil Morris and Kinross Farm.

A 7-year-old son of Tabasco Cat (from his last crop before the sire moved to Japan), Run The Light prevailed by 4 1/4 lengths over Dynaski (James Slater), with Sword Of Dubai (Carl Rafter) third. The winner clocked in at 5:05 2/5.

Injured in 2006, the Ned Evans homebred arrived at Kinross last year, and Morris had hurdles in mind from the start. After winning the Virginiabred flat race over the course in October, Morris said: "We prepared him, got him ready. He's going to run over

Run The Light didn't look green in the \$25,000 Sport of Kings maiden. Read piloted an inside trip behind early

VIRGINIA GOLD CUP RACES

Saturday, May 3

leaders Coupe De Ville and Fershaw. The latter tumbled over a fence on the backstretch, News Flash lost Padge Whelan trying to avoid the fallen horse and Coupe De Ville unseated Danielle Hodsdon at the last. Run The Light avoided trouble and kicked into gear to finish well clear of the late-running Dynaski.

'There were a bunch of incidents, but I got the cleanest trip you could imagine down the inside," said Read. "All of the fallers were to our outside. His jumping is great. He's a very good jumper - big

After six flat wins, Run The Light finished third at the Orange County pointto-point in late March and finished second in his NSA debut at Middleburg. The main difficulty Run The Light encountered in his new career came from being too mellow.

"He went nicely, jumped well," said Read. "But he's such a relaxed horse, he'll just shut off. This time we got him closer to the pace, then let him ease



Hidden Key (left, Paddy Young) shows the way through the water in the Steeplethon.

• Anyone who's ever tried to assemble a model airplane or an Ikea sofa knows the value of good instructions. Even if you're pretty sure how things are supposed to go.

In the plans Paddy Young drew up for the Steeplethon, Hidden Key would be relaxing off the pace. But Doug Fout suggested he make straight for the lead. Just call the trainer Hannibal Smith. Young executed Fout's orders and Hidden Key led at every call and when it counted to score for owner Al Griffin.

"I actually hadn't planned to be out front," Young admitted. "I had ridden him before and didn't think he would

last out there. But Dougie said to put him out there and if he stays, he stays. All the credit goes to him."

Hidden Key enjoyed life on the front end, and was first to each of the 19 fences. But Private Attack (Billy Santoro) made his power play in the stretch. The Grand National winner charged to the fore and seized the lead, only to be thwarted at the wire as Hidden Key called upon hidden reserves to score by

"Private Attack actually got past me and I saw his ears prick up," Young said. "I don't know if he thought he won. I

See **GREAT MEADOW** page 11 ▶





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Great Meadow –

■ Continued from page 10

thought I'd lost; I don't know if I was being a bit pessimistic . . . Normally when a horse is out front the whole time and gets caught in the stretch, they're done. But he dug down and showed me a lot."

Hidden Key negotiated the 3-mile course in 6:01 4/5, taking the \$25,000 Steeplethon by a head over Private Attack, who came home 6 1/2 lengths ahead of Battle Op (Brooks Durkee).

• Be Certain may have been slow on the main track, but his steeplechase career has been on the fast track. The 4-year-old son of Thunder Gulch has proved a precocious pupil, and demonstrated that by jumping out of his condition and outjumping his elders in Saturday's third race, a second-level allowance hurdle. After finishing seventh and eighth in two New York-bred turf affairs last summer, Be Certain came to trainer Tom Voss.

"He just entered my barn in Septem-

ber. He saw his first roll Sept. 1 in the infield at Saratoga," Voss said. "Six weeks later he was starting at Far Hills."

And finishing third in the \$50,000 Gladstone. Owned by Alnoff Stable and trained on the flat by former jump jockey Roger Horgan, Be Certain capped off 2007 with a win in the Raymond Woolfe Memorial at Camden, finishing second to C R's Deputy for divisional honors.

Still, as Voss admitted, "you don't ever know what you're beating in those 3-year-old races."

Be Certain's 2008 campaign started at Aiken and Stoneybrook, where he finished second (placed last at Stoneybrook when Whelan didn't cross the scale afterward) at both spots while continuing to learn his lessons. Next came Great Meadow's \$30,000 allowance hurdle, where he gave away one condition and one to five years on his nine competitors.

Belknap County (Gregg Ryan) set the pace, with Lead Us Not (James Slater) comfortably living up to his name in second and Be Certain (Whelan) casually stalking. Belknap County faded off the map, and Lead Us Not took a short bulge over the final fence, with Be Certain right behind. And though it took him the length of the stretch to do it, the winer nailed Lead Us Not at the wire to win by a neck. Orpington (Willie Dowling) finished third.

Be Certain has come quite a long way since September in

"He was way behind," Voss said. "Physically, mentally, in experience. I think he's caught up now."

 Ann and Henry Stern's greatest horse enjoyed a triumphal tour around the Great Meadow course. As did the Sterns' latest horse. Saluter made a honorary appearance Saturday following the Gold Cup, a race he won six times, parading under his old rider Jack Fisher.

Duke Of Earl, recently purchased from Fisher, had the honors following his win in the day's fourth race, a \$20,000 starter allowance. Facing six foes in the 2 1/2-mile event, the 9-year-old produced a gutty, hard-charging victory for his new owners, running down pacesetting barnmate Mark The





Douglas Lees

Great Meadow maiden winners Run The Light (left, Chris Read) and Strathspey Kino (Jody Petty).



Douglas Lees

Be Certain (left, Padge Whelan) edges Lead Us Not in the allowance hurdle.

Shark (Dowling) in the stretch to score by a length, with Four Schools (Richard McWade) third.

The Duke Of Earl hit the top of the pop charts in 1962, but since Gene Chandler, not many have sung his praises. The stealthily successful gelding is the Rodney Dangerfield of Fisher's comedic barn – despite fourAmerican wins.

"He's always the underdog, and we don't mind that," said jockey Xavier Aizpuru. "He's just the greatest. He's so tough. He's so little and so tough."

The ever-forward Mark The Shark took the front-running duties, closely attended by Four Schools, while Duke Of Earl dawdled near the rear. With a half-mile to go, he sat third, 7 lengths in debt and giving eight pounds to each of the leaders. But the little gelding produced a big finish. He took the lead by the final fence, and didn't let go.

"I thought he was done and then he just dug in," Aizpuru said. "He's such a little horse and he's carrying 154 pounds . . . He never gives up, just never gives up."

• Todd Wyatt has been seen in the winner's circle before. He made numerous trips to the enclosure in his tenures with Tom Voss and Jonathan Sheppard, and even saddled a winner (Brooknononsense) at Fair Hill back in 1999. But it's the photo from the Great Meadow nightcap that will have pride of place on his wall, as Strathspey Kino's maiden victory marked Wyatt's first NSA win since setting up on his own last year.

The 4-year-old son of Dancing Spree topped a field of 14 in the \$20,000 maiden claimer. Rating kindly under Jody Petty, he sat in the middle of the pack early, stalked Prancing Cat for the majority of the proceedings, then asserted himself turning for home to score by 3 1/4 lengths score in a 4:58 2/5. Expel (Jeff Murphy) rallied for second, with Bullet Dancer (Liam McVicar) another 7 1/2 lengths back in third.

Wyatt acquired the British-bred gelding last year from his friend Wendy Kinnamon.

"He was having a hard time on the flat, a maiden. She said, 'I think this horse really wants to be a jumper,' " Wyatt recalled. "We schooled him, put him away for the winter, and just kind of chipped away with him, and he's done it well. So we got really lucky.'

Strathspey Kino made his jump debut last month at Strawberry Hill, finishing just where his trainer hoped.

"He was second his first time out - thank God he didn't win, because he's not ready to go up against winners yet," Wyatt said. "It's a big step, from maidens to winners."

Wyatt entered Saturday's race with confidence in both his horse and jockey.

'Guys like Jody that have ridden awhile, you don't want to tell them too much, because they've been around. They've got an idea," said Wyatt. "If you have to tell them too much you've probably got the wrong rider on your horse, anyway."

Needless to say, Wyatt was pleased with the result.

"It's nice to have a winner, I'm just trying to get people interested in sending me horses. It's a tough game, a lot of people with a lot of money and a lot of horses. There's a lot of little guys in this business trying to make it."

NOTES: Matt McCarron injured his collarbone in the fall with Fershaw and took off his remaining mounts, but should not miss any future meets . . . Whelan severely sprained an ankle when Motel Affair unseated him in the fourth and will be out of action for a few weeks, according to Voss.

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A New Beginning

Flat millionaire Rochester takes to timber

BY BRIAN NADEAU

When you can tell campfire stories about tangles with Better Talk Now, King's Drama, Revved Up, Go Deputy, Relaxed Gesture and Balto Star, taking on eight rivals over 3 miles doesn't seem such a daunting task.

The \$15,000 maiden timber at Foxfield proved as easy as an underhand layup for Augustin Stable's 12year-old Rochester. A veteran of 37 stakes during a 51race flat career for Jonathan Sheppard, the son of Green Dancer found a new home over the lumber with an easy 14 3/4-length win for trainer Sanna Hendriks.

"He's just a fantastically classy individual," Hendriks said. "He didn't earn \$1.2 million on the flat because he didn't like to race or compete."

Rochester wrapped up his flat career in the fall of 2006 when he ran eighth in the Grade III Sycamore at Keeneland, a race the gelding won in 2001, 2002 and 2005. After spending 2007 and 2008 foxhunting through the Pennsylvania countryside, Rochester entered Hendriks' barn early this March with an eye toward a timber campaign.

"He went to Dave Leinhauser in December of 2006 and basically spent over a year with him just hunting, as Dave does with a lot of our timber horses," Hendriks said. "When they spend a year hunting, timber is the next logical step. He appeared to enjoy hunting and timber is not too hard on him and he loves to compete, so it made sense."

Did it ever.

Piloted by Jody Petty, Rochester made like barnmate Irish Prince. After sitting in close attendance to early leader Barzulu, Rochester assumed command after 2 miles, bounding off by 3 1/2 lengths. Petty increased

FOXFIELD SPRING RACES

Saturday, April 26

the tempo with a half-mile remaining, and Rochester opened up by 10 before crossing the line in 5:53 as much he best over Hanko (Molly Forlano) and Finally Home (Liam McVicar).

Rochester cleared the lumber on the Foxfield course and cleared away any lingering doubts Hendriks had as the homebred went back to work after an 18-month vacation from completion.

"Heading into the race I was cautiously optimistic, as you would be with a quality horse like that. He had never run over hurdles and didn't have much running or jumping experience, so you never know," Hendriks said. "As long as he likes to keep doing it and it stays fun and easy we'll go on. We let him dictate things. We don't breeze him, only gallop him. I always tell Jody 'just take care of him.' He's just a fantastic athlete and good horses cover bad training all the time. He was just cruising out there; that was like half-speed for him."

• While Gliding's trip to Japan didn't work out the way his connections hoped, owner Brigadoon Stable, jockey Paddy Young and trainer Doug Fout wasted little time returning to the winner's circle when they scored in the opener with Discreet Charmer.

Like Rochester, Discreet Charmer was making his first jump start, this one a \$25,000, 2 1/8-mile maiden hurdle. Trained on the flat by Joe Pierce, Discreet Charmer won a turf allowance at The Meadowlands last fall and has proved a quick study at the jump game.



Graded turf stakes winner Rochester clears a fence in his timber debut at Foxfield.

"I schooled him sometime in March at Camden over the big hurdles and it was like he was starting all over again, he was all confused and had no idea,' Young said. "At the Carolina Cup I schooled him again and he was pretty good. I thought it might take a run for him to get the hang of it but I was extremely pleased with him."

Discreet Charmer tracked the early lead of Fouttrained stablemate Magic Maker (Matt McCarron) and as that one began to retreat Young guided Discreet Charmer to the outside of new leader Cuse (McVicar) and they spurted clear. Heading to the second-last, the

See **FOXFIELD** page 13 ▶

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Foxfield —

■ Continued from page 12

decision still in the balance, Discreet Charmer stumbled, enabling Cuse to open up 2 lengths. With one fence remaining, Discreet Charmer collared Cuse, getting up by a half-length. Running Tide (Brooks Durkee) closed late

"Dougie had said he had some form on the flat and that he should run well, but Foxfield is not always ideal for a flat horse. He has a tendency to be keen but he settled really well," Young said. "He did have a little trouble with the second-last, but that was entirely my fault. I thought he was going to go really long but he was clever enough to figure it out. I was glad it was Cuse in

there ahead of us because I had raced against him before and I knew he had a tendency to stop when he makes the

 After chasing Preemptive Strike in the Imperial Cup and Eclipse champion Good Night Shirt in the Grade I Georgia Cup, Bear Creek Stable's Sound Blaster enjoyed some class relief in Foxfield's fourth, a \$15,000 allowance for amateur jockeys at 3 miles. Trained by Jack Fisher, the winner made short work of the allowance foes (non-winners of a stakes) with an easy 3 1/2-length victory.

Sitting off the early pace of Sussex County (Gregg Ryan) through the first 14 fences, Sound Blaster (Durkee) began a winning move as the field turned for home, passing Sussex County and Sheriff Dillon with a half-mile remaining. With little urging, Sound Blaster opened up 7 lengths in the stretch before hitting the line 3 1/2 ahead of Humdinger (Diana Gillam), with Sussex County third.

"I think the step down in competition helped; he really liked his company," Fisher said. "It was a good spot for him to get some confidence and the 3 miles and going a little longer seemed to fit as well.'

• Class Shadow remained perfect in two lifetime starts after taking the featured fifth, a \$25,000 filly/mare allowance hurdle, for Mede Cahaba Stable and Lilith Boucher. A maiden winner at Camden earlier in the year, Class Shadow looks to be a rising star in the filly/

Under Boucher's husband, Richard, Class Shadow traveled with Suntara early in the running, while a rank and uncontrollable World Away sped off by roughly 30 lengths. Class Shadow shook free of Suntara and joined Jellyberry (Carl Rafter) in the chase for World Away. She fell over the last and Class Shadow took command and prevailed in a hard drive over Jellyberry, with Suntara (McCarron) third.

"We're just thrilled with her. She raced twice before Camden in a couple of point-to-points and finished second, so she's been over four different courses and tries every time," the trainer said. "Richard said she was much more relaxed this time. She's a very intense filly and he felt she took a deep breath and went around there with Suntara, who's a great jumper, and Class Shadow got some confidence from that."



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Foxfield Spring Races

Charlottesville, Va. Saturday, April 26. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/8 Miles. 1. Discreet Charmer L 144 Young 2. Cuse 149 McVicar 3. Running Tide L 154 Durkee

4. Never Fear L 154 Hodsdon 5. Magic Maker McCarron 6. Auction Watch L 154 Petty Rafter PU. Sabotage L 154

L 149 Carter Mgn: 1/2. Time: 4:03 4/5. O: Brigadoon Stable. T: Doug Fout.

B. g. 4, Sweetsouthernsaint-Henry Henry, Friendly Lover. Bred by Pierce & Lindh (FL).

2nd. Training flat. 1 1/16 miles.

1. Diego Cao (NZ)	L	155	Young
2. High ACtion	L	155	McVicar
3. Class Bop		145	Boucher
4. Kilbride Rd	L	155	McCarron
5. Nat Grew	L	155	Petty
6. Seer	L	155	Durkee
7. Highland Bowl	L	155	Ryan
8. False I. D.	L	155	Rafter
9. General Skye	L	145	Hodsdon
10. Pan Adam	L	155	Harris
Mgn: 1 1/4. Time: 1:47 2	/5.		
O: Brigadoon Stable. T: D	oug	Fout	

Dk. B./Br. g. 6 Cape Cross (Ire)-Daulomani (NZ), Dance Floor. Bred by Oliver, Parsons &

3rd. \$15,000. Maiden timber. 3 miles.

1. Rochester	L	165	Petty
2. Hanko (Ger)	L	155	Forlano
3. Finally Home	L	160	McVicar
4. Udeman	L	165	McCarron
F. Big Is Best (NZ)	L	160	Sullivan
PU. Barzulu (NZ)	L	165	Young
PU. Berani		165	Ryan
PU. Beneficial Man (Ire)			
PU. Quem Se Atreve (Brz)) L	165	Durkee
Mgn: 14 3/4. Time: 5:53.			
O: Augustin Stable. T: Sar	nna	Hend	riks.

B. G. 12 Green Dancer-Central City (GB), Midyan. Bred By George Strawbridge (PA).

4th. \$15,000. Hwt. allow. hurdle, 3 miles.

INVV UI a Stancs. Al	mate	ui ju	ungys.
1. Sound Blaster (Ire)	L	173	Durkee
2. Humdinger	L	163	Gillam
3. Sussex County	L	168	Ryan
4. Sheriff Dillon	L	158	Chubb
5. Saitensohn (Ger)	L	173	Smithwick
6. Inca Colony	L	158	Forlano
Mgn: 3 1/2. Time: 6:10.			
O: Bear Creek Stable. T:	Jack	Fishe	er.

Ch. g. 7 Zafonic-Blasted Heath (Ire), Thatching (Ire). Bred by Peter McCalmont (Ire).

5th. \$25,000. F&M allow. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.

NWIXUK	IN N	12	
1. Class Shadow	L	145	Boucher
2. Jellyberry	L	155	Rafter
3. Suntara	L	155	McCarron
4. Analyze		150	Hodsdon
5. Perfectionately	L	150	Petty
F. World Away	L	140	Young
Pu. Leaves Of Autumn	L	145	McVicar
Mgn: 1/2. Time: 4:13 2/5.			
O: Mede Cahaba Stable. T	: Li	lith B	oucher.
Dk. B./Br. f. 4 Rock Point-Cl	ass	Eclips	se, Class Se-

cret. Bred by Mede Cahaba Stable & Stud (VA).

Maryland Timber Racing: A Way of Life, Still

BY JULIE COLHOUN

Editor's Note: Longtime Maryland timber aficionado Julie Colhoun penned the following for Steeplechase Times. The essay touches on the importance of timber racing on Maryland's equine community as time passes. Colhoun (whose father Janon Fisher Jr. trained Maryland timber legends Mountain Dew and Blockade among others) and her son Dan campaign under the Sportsmans Hall stable banner and won the Grand National with Private Attack this spring.

You can count on the sap running in February and March, and just as strong is the rush of adrenaline to point your horse toward the Maryland Hunt Cup. Those of us brought up in this tradition are always horrified if anything (weddings included)

infringes on the last Saturday of April. My father Janon Fisher Jr. had many horses of all types go through his hands. These were homebred Thoroughbreds or ones sent to him for training, and I'm sure he looked at them all as if they had potential to start in the Hunt Cup.

We (all seven siblings) took care of breaking our horses as yearlings and breezing them for my father. If they showed any speed, they would go to the track and run on the flat as 2-year-olds. After their racing careers, and if we still owned them, they would return to the farm to be schooled and maybe run over brush or hurdles. A favorite of mine was Demarara, a homebred of three generations, who won the 1966 Indian River Steeplechase at Delaware Park over the big brush of those days.

As a family, we foxhunted the most talented jumpers with visions of racing them over timber as an ultimate goal. Mountain Dew heads this list as he hunted from age 4 to 18.

He was a champion at the Maryland State Fair as a yearling; champion at the Green Spring Hunter show at 4; won the Grand National six times (1962-63, 1965-68) and had three Maryland Hunt Cup victories (1962, 1965, 1967).

He was a homebred – his great-grand-mother was one of my father's first Man O' War mares.

The Maryland Hunt Cup asks the ultimate of a horse to go 4 miles with every fence a challenge, to say nothing of the test for the jockey, who could not be a professional rider.

Finding experienced amateur jockeys was always a trial - so, while my father was training his horses, he had to develop riders as well. While we girls performed the riding at home, we were too naïve to pursue riding in races. I do remember Margie riding in one ladies race, finishing second on Sawbuck at Elkridge-Harford. First call was the "in-house" rider – brother Janon. Anyone who remembers his style of riding won't forget it as you never saw him placing, setting or fooling with a horse going into a fence. Horses seemed to respond to this quiet way and he gave us many a thrill on Mountain Dew, among others. Since he didn't ride races until he was in his 20s, where did Father's early amateur jockeys come from?

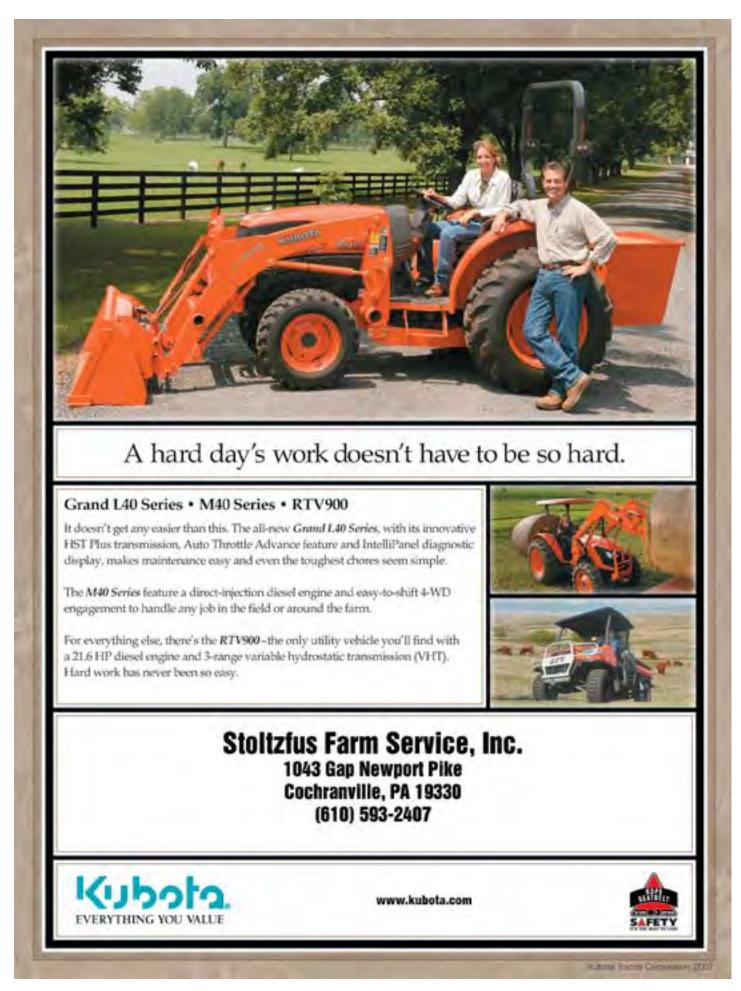
Many boys yearned to learn to ride in races with the fervent desire to try the Maryland Hunt Cup.

They would find their way to our farm, The Caves, either before school, after school or whenever they could steal the time. We girls, having ridden all our lives, would be highly amused by their riding skills or lack thereof. The first thing they did was to hike up their stirrups, nearly under their chins to be sure they looked the way they imagined real jockeys did. Almost always they would soon get dumped or the horse would run off with them.

To gallop a "two-minute lick" took place more than necessary as these jocks hadn't learned how to sit still and hold a horse so he wouldn't run off. Nevertheless, Father stuck with them. Some young boys and grown up men who galloped horses at The Caves and went on to ride them in races for my father were:

Mikey Smithwick: Probably only 15 when he won on Iron Mold. What an incredible career he had; Laddie Murray: Also 15 when he first rode Sawbuck. The second race at the Grand National is named after him; Fred Colwill: Rode Blockade for three Maryland Hunt Cup victories (1938-40), a Grand National win and a New Jersey Hunt Cup win. He had a career as state steward for the Maryland Racing Commission; Jack Menzies: Rode Espadin. His family still hunts regularly; Worthington Bordley: Won the Grand National in 1947 on Clifton's Duke, beating Winton; J.Bowes Bond: Won the 1932 Grand National on Yeoman. He trained horses on the flat; Phil Fanning: Won the Rose Tree Maiden Cup on Sohrab and became a successful breeder; Cary Jackson: Finished the MHC on Sohrab. He is a big supporter of the jumping game; Irv Naylor: Fourth on Village Gossip in Murray Memorial. He races many jumpers today with great success and supports every facet of the sport (and won the 2008 Hunt Cup); David Pearce: Also rode Village Gossip. His family remains in racing; Patrick Smithwick: Rode Moonlore to win the Murray Memorial of 1968. He knew how to ride before he came to The Caves. He is still riding races; Howard Lomas: A show rider and trainer; Billy Rasche: A show rider; Bob Lips: Worked at the track; Danny Shea: Trained horses for many years and had a breeding farm; Jose deMurguiondo: Trained flat horses; Mickey Macquire: I don't know where he went.

For years, horses and riders alike have spent months preparing for the challenge of a few big timber races. When the excitement of April subsides and the multiflora rose blooms over the countryside, we look toward another year of nurturing an old talent, or developing a young prospect. Competition and success will surely come around again.



Lady and the Champ

Stewart guides Askim to timber stakes score

BY JOE CLANCY

GLYNDON, Md. – As Ann Stewart jogged/walked/ floated to the Maryland Hunt Cup winner's circle, she laughed at the magnitude of it all.

"This is too much for a little old lady," she said. Little, maybe. Old, not really. And if it's too much, then she's fooling everyone.

Stewart won her fourth Hunt Cup as a trainer – all in the past 15 runnings – with Askim April 26. Ridden by Stewart's son Charlie Fenwick III and owned by Irv Naylor, the 12-year-old New Zealand import completed a six-year trek to the Hunt Cup and did it with a performance that carried him from fifth to first over the final five fences. Askim ran down Coal Dust at the 21st of 22 fences, then held off a second challenge from that rival by a length at the wire in 8:53 1/5 for the 4 miles. Mr. Liberator finished third as the entire field finished for the first time since 1962.

Nothing if not patient, Stewart thought Hunt Cup from the beginning with Askim though she probably forgot it along the way too. Imported in 2002, the



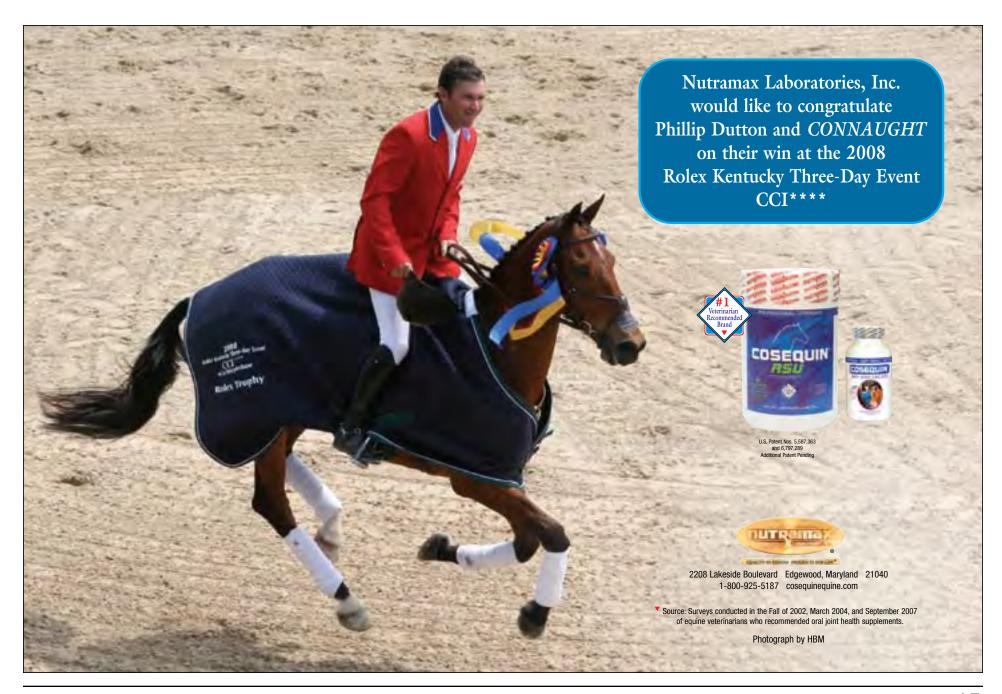
Douglas Lees

Askim (Charlie Fenwick III) beats Coal Dust (right) and Mr. Liberator (left) to the finish of the Maryland Hunt Cup.

speedy son of Lord Ballina made his American debut the next season and won the maiden timber at My Lady's Manor. From there, the baby steps included a Mason Houghland Memorial stakes win at Nashville and a 2004 score in the Manor. Stewart didn't question the horse's speed or jumping, stamina was the concern. She stretched her horse to 4 miles in the Virginia Gold Cup (where he finished a well-beaten fifth). Off for nearly two years with leg troubles, Askim returned

in 2006 and took the Grand National timber stakes in April. Again, Stewart bypassed the Hunt Cup and went the Gold Cup route, where Askim finished a distant third behind Miles Ahead. Extending his racing to the fall for the first time, Askim came back to take the Genesee Valley Hunt Cup and the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup (the latter at 4 miles), and claim the National Steeplechase Association timber championship.

See **HUNT CUP** page 16 ▶



Hunt Cup —

■ Continued from page 15

He didn't run in 2007 due to more soundness concerns, but Stewart no longer feared the Hunt Cup distance.

"You make plans, that's what you do but I had to change my plan too because I wasn't sure he could get 4 miles," Stewart said. "I had to do Pennsylvania (in 2006) to find out, and because I did Pennsylvania I didn't get the next season. Then we came back this year. It worked and he won, but I didn't get him here the other times when I was trying to."

The 2008 season started with a point-to-point run at Cheshire, and then a second to Private Attack in the Grand National. Finally, five years after his first American start, Askim headed postward in the Maryland Hunt Cup. One of the favorites based on connections and form, the Hunt Cup rookie moved up on the opinion meter when two-time race winner Bug River and Grand National winner Private Attack were scratched.

In Private Attack, the race lost its likely pacemaker; in Bug River, its most accomplished starter (he'd been first or second in the previous four runnings).

Mr Liberator (Billy Meister) set the pace over the first few fences, but dropped back as Rosbrian (Jake Chalfin) took over at the seventh. Askim settled in sixth among the compact field of seven. At the 13th, Rosbrian led Foiled Again (Shane Burke), Coal Dust (James Slater), Mr Liberator, Make Your Own (Patrick Worrall), Askim and Lear Charm (Blake



Douglas Lees

Flying through the stretch after 4 miles (from right): runner-up Coal Dust, winner Askim, Mr Liberator and Rosbrian.

Curry). With a mile to go, just past the 17th fence, the pace quickened as Coal Dust moved to third behind Rosbrian and Foiled Again. Taking the lead at the 19th, Coal Dust towed the field toward Tufton Avenue as Rosbrian kept pace and Askim crept past horses into third. In front over the 20th, Coal Dust left the ground in front at the 21st but landed in second as Askim pounced and drew away toward the final fence. Coal Dust landed 3 lengths down, but dug in again and got within a length of a jubilant Fenwick at the wire.

"I wanted to get a lead," Fenwick said of his late-running strategy. "The water jump (fence 21) may have cost me two other Maryland Hunt Cups and for whatever reason Coal Dust did not jump it as well as he did the other fences. I gained some ground on him there."

In the stretch, Askim felt the 4 miles. "I hope I don't get beat because it's going to be a tough way to lose," the

jockey said of his thoughts at the time. "He was coming back on me where I was certainly worried. Any time you go to the front here, the horse sees the cars (parked beyond the finish line) and wonders what's going on – especially a horse that's never done it before. You can get caught in the stretch."

In addition to his mother's success, Fenwick joined a litany of family members to reach Hunt Cup glory. His father Charlie Jr. won the Hunt Cup five times as a jockey and six times as a trainer. Grandfather "Cuppy" Fenwick served as the race's secretary for 30 years. Another grandfather, Redmond Stewart Jr., rode in the race six times and won three times as an owner. Great-grandfather Redmond Stewart Sr. finished second in the first Hunt Cup. Another great-grandfather, G. Bernard Fenwick, helped lay out the current race course in 1922. More recently, cousins Stewart Strawbridge, Sanna Hendriks and Kathy McKenna won the race as trainers and/ or jockeys.

Fenwick grew up racing ponies and watching his father win the race, rode steeplechase races as a teenager, then moved over to flat racing (where he rode roughly 300 winners from 2,600 races while based in Maryland) before

Maryland Hunt Cup

Glyndon, Md. Saturday, April 26. Turf: Good.

1st. \$75,000. Timber stakes. 4 miles. The Maryland Hunt Cup. Amateur jockeys.

1. Askim (NZ) 165 Fenwick . Coal Dust 165 Slater 3. Mr Liberator L 165 Meister 165 4. Rosbrian (Ire) Chalfin 5. Make Your Own 165 Worrall 6. Lear Charm 165 Curry 7. Foiled Again 165 Burke

Mgn: 1. Time: 8:53 1/5. O: Irv Naylor. T: Ann Stewart.

B. g. 12 Lord Ballina (Aus)-Centermaid (NZ), Centaine (Aus). Bred by J.V. & L.D. Wallace (NZ).

coming back to steeplechasing as an amateur in 1999. He didn't miss the significance of the victory.

"It means a lot," he said, pausing as the moment caught in his throat and leaning over to re-group. "It's quite emotional – it's just fun. Some of my earliest memories of childhood are right here. This was a childhood goal, the Kentucky Derby was a goal for a few years and then the Maryland Hunt Cup came back. My cousin (Strawbridge) winning it last year was a real thrill to watch."

Fenwick tasted victory in his fifth Hunt Cup ride. Chief among the others were painful near-misses – in 2005, he parted company with Swayo while in contention at the water jump; in 2006, he lost by a head with Rosbrian after a mistake at the water.

There would be no such pain in 2008 as Askim delivered a sterling performance – rating off the pace, finding a rhythm over the testing fences and speeding home over the final half-mile.

"It went exactly the way we would have planned, somehow," said Stewart. "It was easier to do what he did today when nobody fell in front of him. The field was prepared beautifully and that showed in the way the race turned out. I expected to do well but in this race you go in with fear and trepidation. Any trainer does."

Even little old ladies.

NOTES: The win was Naylor's second, along-side Make Me A Champ's victory in 2005. Three victories by an owner retires the challenge cup, which was last claimed in 1983 by Joy Valentine (Cancottage). In addition to Naylor, Northwoods Stable, Move Up Stable and Arcadia Stable have two notches on the Cup. Since Blockade retired the first challenge cup in 1940, a Hunt Cup trophy has never lasted as long as the current one . . . Worrall returned to the Hunt Cup aboard fifth-place finisher Make Your Own after a lengthy break. Now 36, he won the race aboard Von Csadek in 1992.

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Douglas Lees

Hunt Cup runners (from left) Rosbrian, Make Your Own, Mr Liberator and Foiled Again jump the third.







Win%

NSA Standings

TOP 10 THROUGH MAY 9

Jockeys (Races Won)

	912	ısı	Zna	3ra	woney	WIN%
Jody Petty	22	7	6	1	\$141,200	.32
Will Haynes		4	4	1	58,650	.36
Padge Whelan	13	4	2	1	113,250	.31
Carl Rafter		4	1	7	107,863	.17
Matt McCarron	20	4	1	2	48,556	.20
Danielle Hodsdon	19	3	4	3	168,575	.16
Xavier Aizpuru	18	3	3	1	93,122	.17
Paddy Young		3	2	3	55,700	.14
Richard Boucher		3	1	1	55,304	.19
Willie Dowling	11	2	3	2	98,750	.18
	Traine	re (Ba	ces Wo	n)		
		•		•		M' - 0/
	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Sanna Hendriks	Sts 20	•		3rd 2	\$140,300	.30
Sanna HendriksJack Fisher	Sts 20	1st	2nd 4 1	3rd 2 4		
	Sts 20 26	1st 6	2nd 4 1 7	3rd 2 4 2	\$140,300 201,650 223,147	.30
Jack Fisher	Sts 20 26 19	1st 6 6	2nd 4 1 7 5	3rd 2 4 2 3	\$140,300 201,650	.30 .23
Jack Fisher Jonathan Sheppard	Sts 20 26 19 21	1st 6 6 4	2nd 4 1 7	3rd 2 4 2 3 5	\$140,300 201,650 223,147	.30 .23 .21
Jack Fisher Jonathan Sheppard Tom Voss	Sts 20 26 19 21 37	1st 6 6 4 4 4 4	2nd 4 1 7 5	3rd 2 4 2 3 5 2	\$140,300 201,650 223,147 130,500	.30 .23 .21 .19
Jack Fisher Jonathan Sheppard Tom Voss Doug Fout	Sts20261921379	1st 6 6 4 4 4 3	2nd 4 1 7 5 3	3rd 2 4 2 3 5 2 6	\$140,300 201,650 223,147 130,500 85,206	.30 .23 .21 .19 .11
Jack Fisher Jonathan Sheppard Tom Voss Doug Fout Mike Berryman	Sts2026192137919	1st 6 6 4 4 4 3 3	2nd 4 1 7 5 3	3rd 2 4 2 3 5 2	\$140,300 201,650 223,147 130,500 85,206 51,100	.30 .23 .21 .19 .11
Jack Fisher Jonathan Sheppard Tom Voss Doug Fout Mike Berryman Kathy McKenna	Sts2026193791911	1st 6 6 4 4 4 3 3 3	2nd 4 1 7 5 3 0	3rd 2 4 2 3 5 2 6	\$140,300 201,650 223,147 130,500 85,206 51,100 35,400	.30 .23 .21 .19 .11 .44
Jack Fisher Jonathan Sheppard Tom Voss Doug Fout Mike Berryman Kathy McKenna Desmond Fogarty	Sts20261937919118	1st 6 6 4 4 4 3 3	2nd 4 1 7 5 3 0 1	3rd 2 4 2 3 5 2 6 2	\$140,300 201,650 223,147 130,500 85,206 51,100 35,400 56,550	.30 .23 .21 .19 .11 .44 .16

Owners	(Money	Won)
OWIIGIS	VIVIUII GV	VV UIII

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	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Hudson River Farm	2	2	0	0	\$114,075	1.00
Augustin Stable	16	5	3	2	109,600	.31
Irv Naylor	17	4	2	2	108,600	.24
Calvin Houghland	11	2	3	1	84,172	.18
Arcadia Stable	7	1	0	2	67,250	.14
Sonny Via	1	1	0	0	60,000	1.00
Kinross Farm	15	1	4	3	52,150	.07
Bill Pape	5	2	2	1	49,900	.40
Fox Ridge Farm	2	1	0	1	46,500	.50
Anne Haynes		3	0	0	39,000	1.00

Horses (Money Won)

	Sts	`1st	2nd	² 3rd	Money	Win%
Sovereign Duty	2	2	0	0	\$114,075	1.00
Bubble Economy	3	1	0	2	66,500	.33
Good Night Shirt	1	1	0	0	60,000	1.00
Imagina	2	1	1	0	58,500	.50
Askim	2	1	1	0	51,300	.50
Planets Aligned	1	1	0	0	45,000	1.00
Sweet Shani	1	0	1	0	28,822	.00
Hot Springs	2	1	0	1	28,000	.50
Class Shadow	2	2	0	0	27,000	1.00
Preemptive Strike	1	1	0	0	27,000	1.00

2008 NSA Spring Schedule

Saturday,	May 10	Iroquois	Sunday, May 18	. High Hope
Nashville,	Tenn. www.iroquoissteepled	chase.org	Lexington, Ky. www.highhopesteep	lechase.com

Sunday, May 11 Willowdale Kennett Square, Pa. www.willowdale.org

Saturday, May 24 Fair Hill
Fair Hill, Md. www.fairhillraces.org

Saturday, May 17Radnor Hunt Races Malvern, Pa. www.radnorraces.org See www.nationalsteeplechase.com for updates.

News from the NSF



The National Steeplechase Foundation is dedicated to the preservation and advancement of American steeplechasing through programs that promote safety, education, fairness, and the spirit of amateurism.

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Learning from the Experts III



For the second consecutive year, the National Steeplechase Foundation sent Barry Watson, National Steeplechase Association starter and safety advisor, to England for a fact-finding trip aimed at seeing what can be learned from British jump racing and what can brought home for use in the United States. During his 10-day visit in December, Watson visited the Sandown, Warwick, Chepstow and Cheltenham race courses and talked to eveyone from Jockey Club officials to fence builders. He also spent time at the start during each racing day. In short, the trip proved valuable in many areas — course safety, course maintenance, starting procedures and the strengthening of contacts with various English racing officials.

An installment of Watson's day-by-day report follows, and will appear in the next few Foundation advertising placements.

Dec. 10: It was blustery when we arrived at Chepstow, but it was nice to see the sun again. I could see right away why Chepstow had been canceled two days earlier. The ground on the clubhouse turn was extremely thin, soft, and in many areas void of any grass cover at all.

Tall pines serve as a blind in this area, in an effort to keep the horses' attention from going back to the barns that are on the other side. As a result, the clubhouse turn doesn't get the amount of sun needed to encourage grass growth. On the backside of the course there is a fairly steep grade down hill approaching the far turn that was deeply scarred. Although the scarrings had been repaired, they were still very deep and soft. The ground in this area lacked any consistency at all.

The rest of the course seemed fine. However, Richard Linley had concerns about "crowning" on the chase fences.

Crowning is the result of a horse's action as he prepares to leave the ground approaching the takeoff area of the fence. Over time, the ground builds up to form a subtle mound in front of the fence. Occasionally, the crown needs to be taken off, and that was the point of discussion as Tim Long, Chepstow's clerk of the course, joined us in the stretch. Several alternatives were discussed, from cutting and seeding, to cutting off the top layer of turf, reducing the rise, then reinstallation. The merits of hollow tining were also discussed as another means of maintaining structure on the take-off areas. The result is to create a level surface at the point of takeoff.

Finally, we made our way to Richard's garage to have a look at his incorporation of artificial materials for the standard hurdle frames. As birch becomes more scarce and expensive, artificial alternatives are being explored and utilized at schooling grounds prior to possible approval being given for use on racecourses.

Practically all the chase aprons at Cheltenham are fitted with artificial pine branch, compared to last year when only a few of these fences had artificial aprons. Richard has been experimenting with different artificial materials. The first is a variation of artificial turf, cut to size; with the back notched to fit flush to the frame.

There are two examples of this fence. The first did not have the top bar one sees on most of these hurdles, while the other included the top bar and had a more inviting look. The last sample consisted of artificial branch used on communication antennas to make them appear more natural. In my opinion this example showed the most promise, but the other samples were worthy as well. Richard Linley is a very capable, forward-thinking gentleman whose generosity and graciousness was most appreciated.

The National Steeplechase Foundation supports various initiatives to aid the growth of American steeplechase racing.

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The Pick Six Kid

The owner's son (age 7 and a huge fan) still holds the lead, but things are tightening up considerably thanks to Bubble Economy's victory in the Virginia Gold Cup. Rich stops at the Iroquois and Radnor will no doubt affect the standings too. Since we don't play favorites within the family, April's prize (a \$50 gift certificate to any ST advertiser) goes to Dr. Charles Reid and his Dukester stable.

> The top 24 stables (of 173) are listed here. See www.st-publishing.com for full standings.

First Base Stable	Nolan Clancy
Sovereign Duty	\$114,075
Good Night Shirt	\$60,000
Imagina	
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Classy Brute	
Coal Dust	\$14,900
	\$298,475
Plum Creek Farms	Cathy Fowler
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Good Night Shirt	
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	
Sweet Shani	
Gigger	\$10,850
Geraldal Stable	
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Good Night Shirt	
Imagina	
Planets Aligned	\$45,000
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Bee Charmer	\$0
	\$257,000

•	
PonyUp Stable	
Bubble Economy	
Good Night Shirt	\$60,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$45,000
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Bee Charmer	\$0
	\$257,000
3D Stable	Dallas Butts
Bubble Economy	
Good Night Shirt	
Imagina	
Askim	
Run The Light	
Toughkenamon	
	\$255,800
Dukester	
Sovereign Duty	\$114,075
Good Night Shirt	
Imagina	
The Price Of Love	
Irish Prince	
Orsay	\$0
	\$253.075
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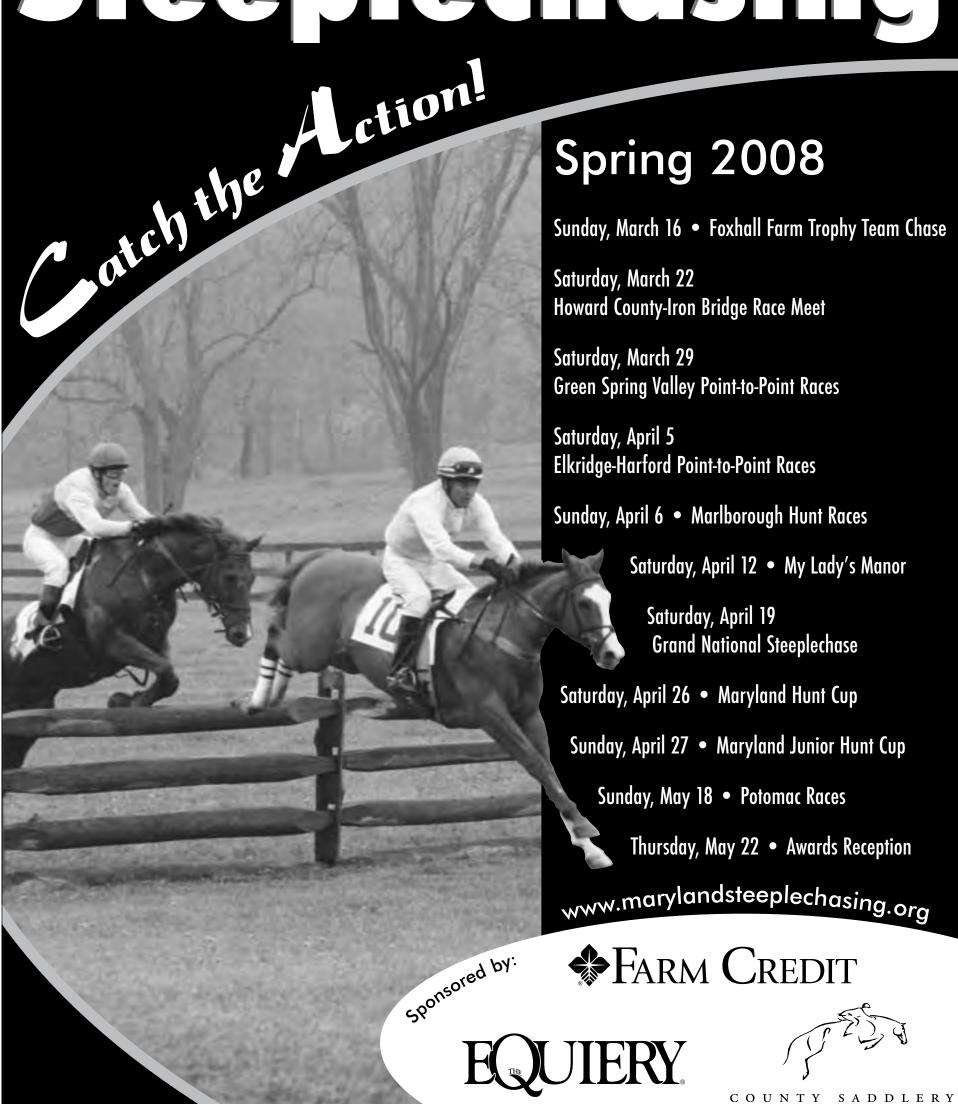
Retired timber star Saluter (right) meets his statue in the winner's circle at Great Meadow.

nethed timber star Saluter	(iigiit) ilieets ilis stat
Champagne Taste	Lisa McLane
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Good Night Shirt	\$60,000
Good Night ShirtImagina	\$58.500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
The Price Of Love	\$19,500
Mixed Up	\$10,000
	\$241 500
Thidwick's Retreat	Mary Anno Stoolo
Bubble Economy	\$66 500
Good Night Shirt	
Imagina	
Imagina Preemptive Strike	ტენ,ენნ
Preemptive Strike	
Run The Light	
Mixed Up	\$10,000
Rolling Thunder	Bob Lunny
Sovereign Duty	\$114,075
Imagina	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Monte Bianco	\$17,000
Meneef	\$15,000
Dreadnaught	\$4,500
First Last Best Guess	\$236,075
First Last Best Guess	Susan Haldeman
Good Night Shirt	\$60,000
Imagina	\$58.500
Planets Aligned	\$45,000
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Miles Ahead	\$21,600
The Price Of Love	\$19,500
	\$231,600
In Theory Farm	Sharon Gibson
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Good Night Shirt	
Imagina	\$50,000 \$50 \$00,000
Imagina Preemptive Strike	
Junood	
Canadathananat	
Seeyouattheevent	
Pocketful of Moths	\$220,700
Coversion Duty	Peter U. mitchen
Sovereign DutyPlanets Aligned	
Planets Aligned	\$45,000
Sweet Shani	\$28,822
Hip Hop	\$26,100
Gigger	\$10,850
Straight Gin	\$0
	\$224 <u>,</u> 847
Block House Farms	Chuck Ross
Good Night Shirt	\$60,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Miles Ahead	\$21,600
Gigger	
	\$222,950
Genesee Valley Racers	Gail McGuire
Good Night Shirt	\$60,000
Imagina	
Preemptive Strike	\$27.000
Hip Hop	\$26.100
Private Attack	\$25.500
Classy Brute	\$24 000
	\$221 100
Cheese In The Trap Stable.	Adrienne Hall
Sovereign Duty	\$11 <i>4</i> 075
Good Night Shirt	\$60 በበበ
Sweet Shani	\$28 822
Mixed Up	
Dreadnaught	\$4 500 \$4 500
Straight Gin	
oralgin dill	

.... \$217,397

Up and Over Stable	John Tower
Sovereign Duty	\$114 N75
Good Night Shirt	\$114,070 \$60,000
Sweet Shani	
Mixed Up	\$10.000
Dreadnaught	\$4.500
Toughkenamon	\$0
	\$217,397
Try Again	.Jim McVey
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Good Night Shirt	\$60,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Magic Maker	\$4,050
Divine Fortune	
Cheltenham Invasion Richard	ֆՀ IO,UƏU Hutchineon
Good Night Shirt	
Imagina	\$58 500
Planets Aligned	\$45,000
Miles Ahead	\$21.600
The Price Of Love	\$19.500
Mixed Up	
	\$214,600
Mrs. Rodddd	Erin Ray
Good Night Shirt	\$60,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	
Run The Light	\$19,500
Best Attack	0.015,015 14,000 في
	\$14,900 \$212 013
Dadofthree Stable	\$2 10,910
Sovereign Duty	\$114.075
Imagina	\$58.500
Best Attack	\$16,013
Mixed Up	\$10,000
Erin Go Bragh	\$8,400
Dreadnaught	\$4,500
	\$211,488
Clover Hill	VIVIAN KAII
Good Night Shirt	 000,500 000,000
Planets Aligned	\$45 000
Sweet Shani	\$28.822
Dreadnaught	\$4.500
Sur La Tete	\$0
	\$204,822
Picture This Stable	
Good Night Shirt	\$60,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$45,000 201 600
Miles Ahead The Price Of Love	⊅∠1,000 \$10,500
Sur La Tete	φ19,500 Ω\$
Our Eu Toto	\$204.600
SeaHorse	Alix Michel
Good Night Shirt	\$60,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$45,000
Miles Ahead	\$21,600
The Price Of Love	\$19,500
Divine Fortune	\$0
Loah'e Loanore	ֆ∠U4,bUU Look Morle
Leah's Leapers	COU USA
Imagina	\$58 500,000 \$58 500
Planets Aligned	\$45 NNN
Miles Ahead	\$21.600
G'day G'day	\$10,500
Gliding	\$4,500

Maryland Steeplechasing



April 24-27

Dutton
Does It

BY KATY CARTER

LEXINGTON, Ky. – It's about time Phillip Dutton won a four star, and he did it in typical fashion at the Rolex Kentucky CCI****, April 24-27 at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Aboard Bruce Duchossois' 17-year-old Irish Draught/Thoroughbred cross Connaught, Dutton turned in a double-clear show-jumping round Sunday to finish on top with 41.7 penalty points. Becky Holder and her longtime partner Courageous Comet led the field of 42 competitors throughout the weekend, only to have eight faults on the final day to finish second on a score of 47.3. Missy Ransehousen and Critical Decision added only four show-jumping faults to their dressage score to place third (57.3), while Stephen Bradley and Brandenburg's Joshua batted cleanup for the weekend on a score of 57.5.

"It feels a lot better to win than get second," Dutton said. "I haven't been too worried that I haven't won. I've been lucky to finish second a few times."

The Rolex runner-up five times previously, Dutton started the weekend in third behind Holder and Heidi White (aboard Northern Spy), with a score of 41.3 from the three judges.

"The biggest improvement this time around was Connaught's dressage," said Dutton, of West Grove, Pa. "I'm always doing a bit of catch-up after dressage."

He credited American team Chef d'Equipe Capt. Mark Philips with the upgrade on his flat work, as well as words of advice from wife, Evie.

"Evie was watching in the warm-up (for show jumping) and said to me 'It looks like you're trying too hard' so I relaxed and he relaxed," said Dutton, a



native of Australia who started riding for the United States last year. "He always steps it up in the ring, so it worked."

Riding at the end of Saturday's cross-country round, Dutton, Bradley and Australian Boyd Martin were held in the warm up area after Frodo Baggins and Laine Ashker fell on course.

"Obviously, our first concern was the welfare of Laine and her horse," Dutton said. "But when we were cleared to go at warm-up, my horse was focused and ready to go." Connaught and Dutton put in a simply beautiful trip cross country. Upon reaching the finish at a gallop, Dutton showed his appreciation for Connaught by leaping out of the tack and wrapping his arms around the 17.2-hand bay gelding's neck. They jumped clean, picking up only a few time penalties, which Dutton said was due to the gelding's often overly careful jumping style.

"We lose a bit of time in the air," Dutton said "but I couldn't be more pleased with him."

See *ROLEX* page 21 ▶





Anthony Trollope

Phillip Dutton and Connaught sport the Rolex ribbons.

Rolex —

■ Continued from page 20

Connaught's careful jumping style proved especially valuable for Sunday's show-jumping phase, in which he and Brandenburg's Joshua were the only horses to turn in double-clean rounds. Bradley went first, turning in a flowing, rythmic ride.

Dutton expressed some concern over the final elements of the course, a triple bar to vertical in and out, then five or six strides to a square oxer, but galloped through it in style, leaving all the rails in their cups.

"This horse never wants to touch a rail, and I felt we were a little slow," Dutton said. "I galloped through the timers and felt like a pony-club kid looking at the clock."

Although somewhat disappointed at being relegated to second, Holder exhibited trademark sportsmanship in congratulating Dutton.

"I would have much rather won," she said, "but I'm really thrilled with my horse and our performance. I'm not too sad to come second to Phillip Dutton."

Holder and Courageous Comet, whom she owns with her husband, Tom, spent the winter working on their show jumping, which has been a challenge in the past.

"I am happy with the improvements we've made this sping and look forward to more improvements in the future," she said.

Missy Ransehousen was equally as thrilled with the performance of Critical Decision, an Oldenburg gelding owned by her mother Jessica. Scoring 53.3 in dressage, the pair sat 12th going into cross country, but a double-clear round on Saturday rocketed them to fourth place. A four-fault round within the time secured the yellow ribbon for Ransehousen, who is based just down the road from Dutton in Unionville, Pa.

"I am honored to be up here with Phillip and Becky," she said. "My horse can get very excited with crowds and we pull rails because of it. My goal was to keep him forward and relaxed. I was very pleased with him today."

• Frodo Baggins was euthanized after sustaining injuries as a result of a fall at the fifth fence on cross country Saturday. Rider Laine Ashker was also injured in the fall, sustaining a broken jaw, ribs and clavicle and collapsed lungs. As of May 6, she was in intensive care at the University of Kentucky medical center in Lexington.

In a separate incident Sarah Hansel's horse The Quiet Man sustained a shoulder injury as a result of a fall. The Quiet Man was euthanized Sunday morning. Hansel sustained minor injuries and didn't require hospitalization.



Runner-up Courageous Comet (Becky Holder) jumps a cross-country fence at Rolex.

2008 Rolex Awards

Rolex Trophy (overall winner)
Phillip Dutton (USA), Connaught

USET Foundation Pinnacle Cup (highest-placed U.S. rider)
Phillip Dutton, Connaught

Coman Trophy (breeder of winning horse) Michael Kelly (Ireland)

Carimati Cup (highest-placed foreign rider) Boyd Martin (AUS), Neville Bardos

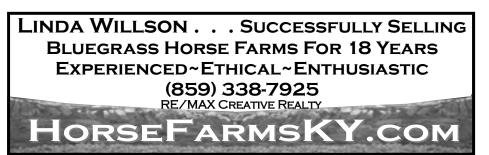
Bank One Trophy (highest placed rider/owner) Stephen Bradley, Brandenburg's Joshua

Zeppa International Trophy (best turned-out horse & rider at inspections)
Allison Springer, Arthur

Best Conditioned Horse

No It Tissant, Lynn Symansky

		The Top 10	
PI.	Horse	Rider	Score
1.	Connaught	Phillip Dutton	41.7
2.	Courageous Comet	Becky Holder	47.3
3.	Critical Decision	Missy Ransenhousen	57.3
4.	Brandenburg's Joshua	Stephen Bradley	57.5
5.	Tipperary Liadhan	Kim Severson	62.6
6.	Theodore O'Connor	Karen O'Connor	66.2
7.	The Good Witch	Jennifer Wooten	67.3
8.	From	Stephen Bradley	67.8
9.	Neville Bardos	Boyd Martin	69.0
9.		Phillip Dutton	
		•	





Eventing News

Eventing safety summit on for June

Eventing leaders David O'Connor and Kevin Baumgardner will spearhead a safety summit to be held June 7-8 in Lexington, Ky., following injuries to horses and riders over the past several months and accompanying media reports locally and nationally.

O'Connor, a former competitor and president of the United States Equestrian Federation, and Baumgardner, president of the U.S. Eventing Association, issued a joint letter posted online by both organizations. The letter suggests five specific changes aimed at making the sport's cross-country phase safer for horses and riders:

- If a horse has a rotational fall, horse and rider are suspended from competing for three or six months.
- If a horse has a rotational fall, horse and rider lose their qualification at the level at which they are competing.
- If a rider falls off on the course they are eliminated.
- Open oxers on courses at every level are made frangible (breakable to help minimize rotational falls).
- If a horse falls related to a jump both horse and rider are suspended from competing for one month.

The safety summit, slated for the Hyatt Regency

hotel, will include two general sessions and five focus sessions aimed at qualification, course design, education (including rider responsibility and official responsibility), veterinary and officials.

Registration is \$35 and attendees can register at the USEF website at www.usef.org. The organizations also invited input by email to safetythoughts@usef.org or safety@useventing.com.

Mandatory outings set for Olympians

The United States Equestrian Federation announced two mandatory outings for short-listed riders pointing for the Olympics. The eventing short list will be named by June 30 and all short-listed horse-and-rider combinations will be required to attend one mandatory outing

The first will be at the Barbury Castle Horse Trials CIC*** in England July 3-6. The second will be hosted by The Fork Stables in Norwood, N.C., July 11-12. On July 15, the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team in eventing (and alternates) will be announced.

At The Fork, the cross-country phase will be observed by selectors but not scored.

As per the USEF selection procedures, riders may be excused from the mandatory outing for veterinary, medical or family emergencies.

French rider Touzaint wins Badminton

Nicolas Touzaint became the first French rider to win the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials at Badminton, England April 30-May 4. Touzaint rode Hildago De L'Ile to victory with a score of 48.4 faults. Ninth after dressage, he added 4.8 time penalties in cross country to take the lead and won with one rail down in show jumping.

English rider Lucy Wiegersma and Shaabrak placed second, 1.4 points behind the winner, with William Fox-Pitt and Ballincoola rounding out the top three. Early leaders Andrew Hoy, Ruth Edge, Clayton Fredericks, Pippa Funnell and Mary King all faltered on cross-country day.

The reigning European champion, Touzaint is just the second mainland European winner since Swiss rider Capt. Hans Swchwarzenbach won in 1951. A 13-year-old Selle Francais, Hidalgo De L'lle won a four-star at Pau (France) last fall.

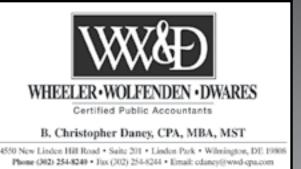
Chiacchia returns home

Event rider Darren Chiacchia, injured in a fall in March, returned to his Ocala, Fla., home and has made significant progress in his recovery from head trauma. Chiacchia spent time at a rehabilitation facility in New York, but was discharged in late April and seems on the road to a full recovery according to several reports. He undergoes daily physical therapy and has been cleared to begin riding horses again.



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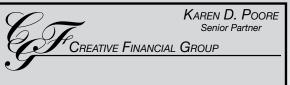


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Life is. . .

Would-be philosopher Simmons studies horses at Virginia farm

BY KATY CARTER

Philosopher René Descartes walks into a bar. The bartender says, "What will it be, whiskey?" Descartes says, "I think not!" And he disappears.

Um, anyway, what do Philosophy majors actually do after college?

Evidently, some establish successful businesses in eventing.

"I have a B.A. in philosophy, and as you can see, I'm really using my degree," joked Jennifer Simmons, now at the helm of Locochee Farm, a training facility in Middleburg, Va. Simmons, a native Texan and graduate of Randolph-Macon Women's College, ran her own eventing and training business, JCS Stables, for several years before accepting the offer to run Locochee from longtime client Lysa Clemens and her husband, Paul.

So was this the result of fate or causal determinism?

"Everything fell into place at the right time," said Clemens, an adult amateur rider who works as an executive for Strayer Education in Rosslyn, Va.

Simmons concurred. "I went over to Locochee to buy a used trailer from

EVENTING FEATURE

a girl I knew, only to find that literally everything was for sale, cheap," she said. "The owners were getting out of the business and I thought of Lysa. One of my other clients, Marci Welsh, happened to be the realtor."

The Clemenses purchased the property in the fall of 2006, realizing their dream of farm ownership. Both commute to "real" jobs, but work the farm on Saturdays and Sundays.

"Our weekends are filled with dealing with well maintenance, pasture management, manure management, painting, power washing, refurbishing the barn, you name it," said Lysa. "The lady who sold us the place was shocked we had never owned a farm before. Her face fell when we told her. But we have received good guidance from knowledgeable people."

Twenty-seven horses call the farm home – some in a full program, others in partial training – with four full-time staff members. Simmons also has a loyal contingent of clients at a variety of levels within the sport.

"It's important for me to know the



Brumby and Jenn Simmons clear a fence during a cross-country round.

horses are schooled and prepared for their jobs," said Simmons. "It's good for the well-being of both horse and rider. So much of good riding is good management. So many of my clients are working adults with limited time; the last thing they need to worry about is if they can't get to the barn every day or if their horse has a stone bruise. That's my job."

Simmons clearly enjoys teaching and finds inspiration in her students, most of whom have Type A tendencies.

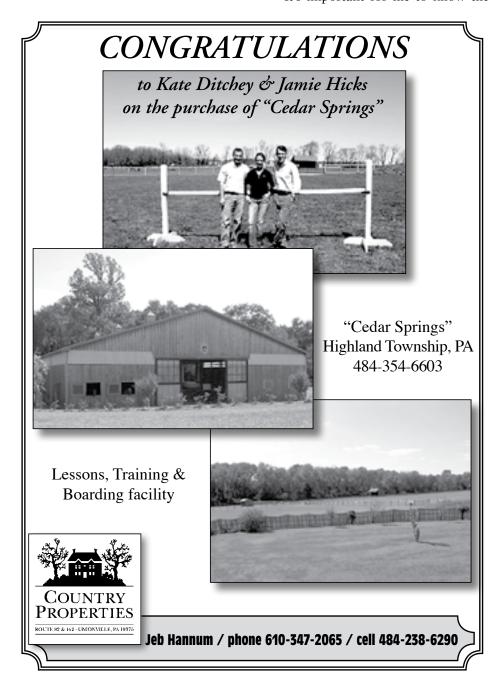
"My clients are wonderful role mod-

els and fantastic students," she said.
"They are all super ambitious, hard working, really smart people who are not only a lot of fun, but they all know how to keep going."

Clemens, like so many in the D.C. area, is not a Virginian by birth. Having spent most of her life in Arizona, she rode as a child and teenager, only to climb back in the saddle at 32.

"I started back taking lessons, and then leased a horse," she said. "I met

See **SIMMONS** page 24 ▶





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Simmons -

■ Continued from page 23

an eventer in Phoenix, Alice Sarno, and the sport just sounded really cool. I liked the challenge of trying to be good at three different phases."

When it came time to plunge into actual horse ownership, Clemens planned on taking the tried-and-true route.

"I wanted a 10-year-old training-level packer," she said. "But I got to the barn one day and Alice said 'Your horse is here!' "

Then 3 years old and fresh off the track at Turf Paradise, Everybody Loves Brumby was anything but a training-level packer. Just after purchasing the bay gelding in 2001, Clemens moved to Virginia and proceeded to frequently fall off her new horse, one spill resulted in a cracked pelvis.

Unable to physically move due to her injury, Clemens was in serious need of assistance. "I called Deana Vaughn, looking for help," she said. "Deana couldn't take another horse, and recommended Jenn, so I called her up and told her I was sending a horse to her."

"Now usually, people don't send good horses to be trained," Simmons said, "but he was nice, polite, and uncomplicated – a total gift."

Clemens took Brumby through novice and training levels under the tutelage of Simmons, but miscommunication and nervousness still proved to be major roadblocks for the pair and after breaking her collarbone in a fall, Clemens considered selling.

"The green rider, green horse combination of he and Lysa was clearly not working," said Simmons.

Clemens agreed, "I needed a more appropriate horse. Jenn said 'Give me three months' and straightened him out."

Simmons took over the reins in time for the first

American Eventing Championships in 2004, where one second on cross country broke the first-place tie and relegated them to second in the training level championship division, and then onward to preliminary level. After recovering from the collarbone injury, Clemens returned to competition at the training level a number of times before handing the ride on Brumby over to Simmons indefinitely.

"I thought he had one-star potential," said Simmons, who trains with Jan Byyny. "The first winter we went to Aiken, we did a bunch of prelims and he was in the top three every time. We won a division of prelim at Poplar Place and were second at Jumping Branch."

Simmons and Brumby galloped around the intermediate tracks at Plantation and Morven Park before finishing a competitive fifth at the May 2006 Virginia CCI* in Lexington and then completing the Radnor

See *SIMMONS* page 25 ▶



EVENT/SHOW JUMPER: Classic Storm

12-year-old, 16.1-hand bay gelding, sound, competed through training level ready to move up. Very technical to fences, flashy in dressage, recently scored a 29% at dressage show, bold X-C, fast & clean at jumper shows. Pictures available.

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EVENT/SHOW PROSPECT: Farah T Salute

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HURDLE/TIMBER/EVENT PROSPECT: Wazee Moto

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Simmons —

■ Continued from page 24

CCI** that fall. The following year, the pair placed at intermediate-level horse trials and completed the Jersey Fresh CCI** before finishing sixth in their first advanced horse trials at Plantation Field in September 2007.

"I knew he was the real deal after Morven Park in '06," said Simmons. "It was a very technical track and he skipped through it. I was simply wowed. He doesn't have an outrageous jump and isn't the scopiest, but Brumby has more heart than every horse in the barn. He's like a mathematician out on course; I could do a headstand on him and he'd find the flags and in order."

Clemens couldn't be more thrilled with her little bay horse.

"At every event, someone asks if he's for sale. I kind of had an idea that he could be special, but he was very incognito about it."

Brumby has been rewarded with a well deserved break for spring 2008, with plans to be back for the summer and fall with Simmons in the irons.

"Right now, we're taking time with him, but he'll snap back into action quickly," Simmons said confidently.



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Schweizer wraps up 24 years as Hunt Cup clerk

Tim Schweizer just didn't say no – for 24 years – as the volunteer clerk of the course at the Maryland Hunt Cup.

In charge of patrol judges, ambulances, doctors, crowd control and such, Schweizer was honored in a retirement ceremony at the race April 26. The Marylander saw his job as a way to give back to the great race.

"I guess I have pretty good organizational skills – that must be why (long-time race secretary) Cuppy Fenwick asked me to do it," Schweizer said. "I'm interested in the sport, I was interested in helping Cuppy and I stayed around a long time. I thank the committee for having me. I enjoyed it."

Schweizer's role expanded as the race modernized despite its position as the oldest on the NSA calendar. The clerk of the course now oversees a big team of people including 25 patrol judges, six attending physicians, emergency response teams for people and horses, communications consultants, et al.

"It's evolved over the years to make sure the race is as safe as it can be," he said. "There's a lot more to it than people think – more doctors, better equipment, radios."

A partner in Cohiba Stable (Mark The Shark), Schweizer looks forward to going to the races as a spectator in 2009 when the clerk of the course reins

PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES

will officially be in the hands of Chris Bennett.

"I'm a subscriber so maybe I'll be able to use my space and have a picnic," said Schweizer, who works with Mike Hankin (owner of two-time Hunt Cup winner Bug River) at Brown Advisory.

- Joe Clancy

Leinhauser the man for future timber horses

Don't try finding Dave Leinhauser's name in a steeplechase program or look for him to grace the trainer standings anytime soon. Leinhauser is the man behind the scenes of many of Augustin Stable's timber horses, proving integral in the success of such standouts as The Bruce, Seeking Seattle, Ghost Valley, and his newest graduate, Rochester, who improved to 2-for-2 over timber with a win Sunday at Winterthur.

Leinhauser, who lives in Kennett Square, Pa. and works for Cuyler and Katie Carter, brings a mixed bag to the table, with a background in eventing and showing as well as some flat work thrown in along the way. After the Augustin horses finish their flat careers Leinhauser takes over with the ultimate goal to develop timber horses for trainer Sanna Hendriks.



Douglas Lees

Clerk of the course Tim Schweizer goes over some particulars at the Maryland Hunt Cup.

"Sanna and her whole operation couldn't be nicer to deal with. They let you do your own thing with the horses and that's very important," Leinhauser said. "The horses I get are all talented and well-bred, so the biggest key is getting them to relax."

With a blank canvas and no restrictions, Leinhauser is able to take his time with each horse, letting them dictate the terms and the speed at which they advance through the program.

"Each horse is a little different, in terms of how long I'll work with them. Rochester, I basically got him right off the flat track. He came in about a year ago this past February and I spent the summer schooling him and doing grids," Leinhauser said. "Rochester and

Seeking Seattle, they were real projects. The Bruce, I don't think he was here more than three months."

After going through the basics, Leinhauser begins to foxhunt the horses, essentially training them for their timber careers with a run through the Pennsylvania countryside. Leinhauser knew Rochester had what it takes to be a successful timber horse, even if he was a bit slow to come around.

"When he first got here he was a bit nervous, but you knew he was going to be OK," Leinhauser said. "Each hunt we went on I could tell he was going to be a good timber horse, he was just so brave. He was always a class horse right from when I got him."

- Brian Nadeau



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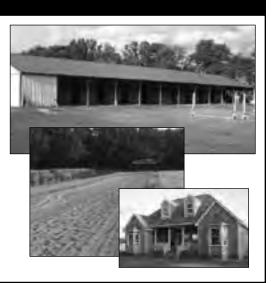


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