

By Avalyn Hunter



VALUE, VARIETY, AND PEDIGREE

Last year's Southeastern stallion scene was dominated by the departure of Padua Stables, Cloverleaf Farms II, and Sequel Stallions from Florida, resulting in transfers of at least a dozen Florida stallions to other states. While different stallions moved in to fill the gaps, the overall quality of the new entries was generally lower than that of previous years, leading to concerns about the health of the Florida breeding industry.

One Florida operation working vigorously to reverse the trend is Brent and Crystal Fernung's Journeyman Stud, which was formed after Cloverleaf's transfer to Kentucky. Working from leased facilities in 2008, the Fernungs were able to retain 2002 Lafayette Stakes (gr. III) winner **Cashel Castle** (Silver Ghost), 2004 Frank J. DeFrancis Memorial Dash Stakes (gr. I) winner **Wildcat Heir** (Forest Wildcat), 2002 Donn Handicap (gr. I) winner **Mongoose** (Broad Brush), and 2005 Forego Handicap (gr. I) winner **Mass Media** (Touch Gold) from Cloverleaf and 2004 Amsterdam Stakes (gr. II) winner **Bwana Charlie** (Indian Charlie) from Sequel Stallions. The Fernungs also brought in 2007 Churchill Downs Stakes (gr. II) winner **Saint Anddan** (A.P. Indy) and Gulfstream Park track record setter **Exclusive Quality** (Elusive Quality), who both proved quite popular with breeders.

Mongoose is now in Peru, but an aggressive search for new stallions has been underway. Thanks to the construction of new facilities on the Fernungs' own Journeyman Farm near Reddick, Fla., Journeyman Stud can now handle as many as 14 stallions, and they have been working to add horses that have both racing ability and pedigree to offer – and something more.

"Brent and I are looking for stallions that showed consistency and racing talent, and that beat high-quality competition," says Crystal Fernung. "Physically, we want to see lots of bone and good balance, and we like a pedigree with a solid female family. We want to offer breeders both good value and a variety of bloodlines and physical types to suit their mares."

Five new stallions have been added to the Journeyman roster for 2009: **Circular Quay**, **Cowtown Cat**, **Deputy Glitters**, **Gaff**, and **Sweet Return (GB)**. The first four are new sires for 2009 while Sweet Return is moving from nearby Signature Stallions, where he stood his first season in 2008.

Circular Quay, by Thunder Gulch out of 1999 Spinaway

Stakes (gr. I) winner Circle of Life, was a top juvenile who won the Bashford Manor Stakes (gr. III) and the Hopeful Stakes (gr. I) and ran second in the Lane's End Breeders' Futurity and Breeders' Cup Juvenile (both gr. I). He trained on to win the 2007 Louisiana Derby and the 2008 New Orleans Handicap (both gr. II). "He's just an outstanding individual," says Fernung.

A \$1.5 million 2-year-old, Cowtown Cat is by Distorted Humor and is the first stakes winner by that stallion to retire to stud in Florida. The winner of the 2007 Illinois Derby (gr. II) and Gotham Stakes (gr. III), he was produced from the Storm Cat mare Tom's Cat, whose dam Shouldnt Say Never (by Meadowlake) was one of four stakes winners produced from the Chieftain mare Keys Special.

Five-year-old Deputy Glitters retires with wins in the 2006 Ohio Derby (gr. II) and Tampa Bay Derby (gr. III) and a reputation for great determination as a racer. A son of multiple grade I winner Deputy Commander (by Deputy Minister) out of the stakes-placed Glitterman mare Glitters, Deputy Glitters has a pedigree free of Mr. Prospector, Seattle Slew, and Hail to Reason.

Gaff racked up five triple-digit Beyer figures during his racing career and won grade III events on both dirt and turf. He is by 1995 champion juvenile colt Maria's Mon out of the Tunerup mare Ionlyhaveeyesforu, a full sister to multiple grade III winner Ifyoucouldseemenow. His pedigree is an outcross to most of the major North American lines as it is free of Northern Dancer, Mr. Prospector, Seattle Slew, and Hail to Reason.

Three-time grade I winner Sweet Return, a turf specialist, has the most unusual pedigree among the Journeyman stallions as he is by multiple group I winner Elmaamul (by Diesis) out of Sweet Revival (GB), whose sire Claude Monet is a group II-winning son of Affirmed. Sweet Return won major races from eight to 10 furlongs and is an outcross to the Northern Dancer, Mr. Prospector, Seattle Slew, and In Reality lines.

At this point, no further additions are expected for 2009. "We do have open minds if the right horse becomes available," says Fernung. "But we're already looking ahead to 2010 and starting to focus on some possibilities. Our goal is to get this state back to where it was in the 1970s and 1980s, when stallions like Fappiano and Nodouble were made here." **W**

Cashel Castle			
SILVER GHOST, gr. 1982	Mr. Prospector, 1970 14s, SW, \$112,171 1,178 f, 181 SW, 3.99 AEI	Raise a Native, 1961 4s, SW, \$45,955 838 f, 78 SW, 2.34 AEI	Native Dancer Raise You
		Gold Digger, 1962 35s, SW, \$127,255 12 f, 7 r, 7 w, 3 SW	Nashua Sequence
	Misty Gallore, 1976 19s, SW, \$479,711 8 f, 5 r, 3 w	Halo, 1969 31s, SW, \$259,553 724 f, 63 SW, 2.89 AEI	Hail to Reason Cosmah
CASHEL CASTLE gr./ro, h March 19, 1999		Flight Dancer, 1968 12s, wnr, \$9,538 11 f, 9 r, 7 w, 2 SW	Misty Flight Courbette
	Unreal Zeal, 1980 27s, SW, \$131,090 593 f, 29 SW, 1.12 AEI	Mr. Prospector, 1970 14s, SW, \$112,171 1,178 f, 181 SW, 3.99 AEI	Raise a Native Gold Digger
DESVIACION, b, 1991		Quick Nurse, 1974 Unraced 7 f, 7 r, 7 w, 2 SW	Dr. Fager Sack Race
		Idle Minds, 1967 7 f, wnr, \$125,197 24 f, 1 SW, 0.85 AEI	No Robbery Idle Hour Belle
	Rafael Luna, 1977 37s, wnr, \$27,171 12 f, 11 r, 10 w, 1 SW	New Zion Miss, 1969 64s, wnr, \$28,074 6 f, 4 r, 2 w	Green Hornet C. Ergoin

Saint Anddan			
A.P. INDY, dkb/br, 1989	Seattle Slew, 1974 17s, SW, \$1,208,726 1,050 f, 114 SW, 3.66 AEI	Bold Reasoning, 1968 12s, SW, \$189,564 61 f, 10 SW, 3.75 AEI	Boldnesian Reason to Earn
		My Charmer, 1969 32s, SW, \$34,133 12 f, 8 r, 6 w, 4 SW	Poker Fair Charmer
SAINT ANDDAN b, h March 31, 2002	Weekend Surprise, 1980 31s, SW, \$402,892 14 f, 12 r, 9 w, 4 SW	Secretariat, 1970 21s, SW, \$1,316,808 653 f, 57 SW, 2.95 AEI	Bold Ruler Somethingroyal
		Lassie Dear, 1974 26s, SW, \$80,549 13 f, 12 r, 12 w, 4 SW	Buckpasser Gay Missile
ADORADOR, ch, 1993	Danzig Connection, 1983 17s, SW, \$1,002,620 761 f, 21 SW, 1.06 AEI	Danzig, 1977 3s, wnr, \$32,400 1,074 f, 200 SW, 4.09 AEI	Northern Dancer Pas de Nom
		Gdynia, 1978 22s, wnr, \$46,600 6 f, 9 r, 4 w, 2 SW	Sir Ivor Classicist
		Conquistador Cielo, 1979 13s, SW, \$474,328 895 f, 71 SW, 2.06 AEI	Mr. Prospector K D Princess
	Andora, 1986 5s, wnr, \$14,400 10 f, 10 r, 8 w, 3 SW	Sabin, 1980 25s, SW, \$1,098,341 10 f, 8 r, 7 w, 2 SW	Lyphard Beaconaire