

Willowbank: A beautiful setting

Move a few years ago signalled a new focus for the breeding, training farm.



Top: Willowbank Farm

Bottom: Attache's Thunderbolt

When Joan Lurie and her partners opened their American Saddlebred training facility in 1981, little did they know that 20 years later Willowbank would be one of the top stallion stations in the United States. And they probably wouldn't have predicted that the main focus of their farm would grow to be breeding, training, showing and selling young stock.

It was Joan who made the decision that in time changed her career and the future of the farm: In 1982 she and a partner purchased Attache, a three-time WC and WC Sire.

Now Willowbank stands ten premier ASB stallions and a Hackney Horse, breeds dozens of mares, and foals close to 40 babies a year, many going on to win WC honors for their owners. Further reflection of Willowbank's continuing success was the 1997 move from Shelbyville, KY to 132 rolling acres on Todd's Point Road in Simpsonville, KY.

Joan and her partners, Jim and Bonnie Ruwoldt and their daughter Kathy, created the new Willowbank with a 40-stall main training barn and adjacent breeding shed, broodmare and foaling barn with runouts and stalls for 20 mares and foals, two more mare and colt barns, plus beautiful ponds and lush pastures bordered by miles of black board fence.

Supreme Heir, the leading sire of WCs in 2002, 2001, 2000 and 1998 who also leads the performance sire ratings, stands at Willowbank, along with Attache's Thunderbolt, The Cheetah, Harlem's Valentino, Belle Reve's Voodoo Magic (Poser), The Mac Attack, CF I'm, A Prowlin', Supreme Delivery, Finally Attached, Undulata's Man Of The Hour and Forewood Commander.

Among the WCs who began their careers at Willowbank are: The outrageous WGC An Heir About Her, WC Futurity & Bluegrass Futurity Weanling Champion Line Of Thunder, Thunder Over Louisville, Lightnin' Lil, Blind Ambition, Bad Moon Rising, Blind Ambition, Mister Splish Splash, Go Baby Go, Lady Lenaire, Attache's Three Of A Kind, Heir Style, Sultry Heiress, Unattached, The Bess Yet, She's The Bess, Hank Heiron, Careless Heiress, Kaladar, See The Sights, Heir Kitty Kitty, Heir Brushed, Marakesh, Atlantache, Satori, The Flying Tomato, Vintage Lace, The Shadow Knows, Sweet Attachment, Black Bottom Pie, Heir Bubble and many others.

In 1998 Joan Lurie was presented the annual ASHA Breeder's Award. Then in 1999 at the KY State Fair, Willowbank youngsters were three for three, winning both the KY Yearling and Weanling futurities and the Weanling Breeder's Stake. They also won more blues in both 2001 and 2002.

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