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Back on the Bridle

*John and Leslie Malone seek to
revitalize historic Bridlewood Farm*

BY MICHAEL COMPTON
PHOTOS BY JOE DiORIO

IF THERE IS a template for success, it's a safe bet that John and Leslie Malone, the new owners of Bridlewood Farm near Ocala, Fla., are among the architects.

Worth an estimated \$6.7 billion, John, 73, is chairman of Liberty Media Corp., an Englewood, Colo.-based company whose subsidiaries include Sirius XM and Major League Baseball's Atlanta Braves, and has interests in Charter Communications, Live Nation Entertainment, and Barnes & Noble. He ranks 61st on the Forbes 400 List of Wealthiest Americans and is the largest individual landowner in the U.S., a title he earned in 2011, surpassing longtime friend Ted Turner.

"Leslie says the drive to acquire land is in our Irish genes," said John. "We just love open spaces."

A merit scholar at Yale University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and economics in 1963, John also received a Master of Science in industrial management from Johns Hopkins University in 1964 and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in operations research from Johns Hopkins in 1967.

"I like to create businesses and new things, both from a financial structure point of view as well as technological," said John. "I get satisfaction in seeing organizations develop and watching good managers grow things. I'm an absolute capitalist. I believe in the reward system, and building something and owning it is the ultimate reward."

Leslie, an equestrian and a major supporter of the U.S. Olympic Dressage Team, focuses on restoration and construction of the properties in the couple's vast portfolio,



John Malone, along with his wife, Leslie, purchased Bridlewood Farm for \$14 million

2014 LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2014 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	WILDCAT HEIR (00, Forest Wildcat), Journeyman Stud	\$10,000	63/12	2/2	0/2	(Hot Heir Skier, \$60,000)	\$334,143	*446	23	1.47	1.53
2	GRAEME HALL (97, Dehere), Winding Oaks Farm	\$4,000	40/12	1/1	0/1	(Tanzanite Cat, \$90,000)	\$318,176	*426	23	1.46	1.25
3	WITH DISTINCTION (01, Storm Cat), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$7,500	73/10	0/0	0/0	(She's Spooky, \$46,825)	\$265,978	*377	9	1.15	1.21
4	IMPERIALISM (01, Langfuhr), Get Away Farm	\$3,500	27/4	0/0	0/0	(Jan's Perfect Star, \$34,200)	\$140,124	183	3	0.83	0.98
5	MONTBROOK (90, Buckaroo), Ocala Stud Farm	Died	29/5	0/0	0/0	(Schivarelli, \$36,000)	\$134,551	*833	49	1.55	1.55
6	TWO STEP SALSA (05, Petionville), Get Away Farm	\$7,500	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Dance With Fate, \$34,800)	\$111,335	71	0	1.37	1.08
7	HARLINGTON (02, Unbridled), Winding Oaks Farm	\$1,500	22/5	0/0	0/0	(Lightnin Fast Girl, \$18,240)	\$101,813	*90	1	1.09	1.62
8	HIGH COTTON (03, Dixie Union), Ocala Stud Farm	\$7,500	23/3	0/0	0/0	(Princess Marcela, \$28,200)	\$98,203	*142	4	1.22	1.27
9	REPENT (99, Louis Quatorze), Woodford Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	27/5	0/0	0/0	(No More Sins, \$15,600)	\$94,076	*462	24	1.14	1.21
10	STRONG CONTENDER (03, Maria's Mon), HallMarc Stallions at Stonewall Farm	\$3,000	13/2	1/1	1/1	(Miss Da Point, \$45,000)	\$85,759	*138	5	0.97	1.13
11	CONCORDE'S TUNE (89, Concorde Bound)	Died, 2011	29/4	0/0	0/0	(Mystical Myles, \$14,530)	\$81,684	486	29	1.27	1.13
12	A. P. WARRIOR (03, A.P. Indy), HallMarc Stallions at Stonewall Farm	\$4,500	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Warrioroftheroses, \$16,000)	\$78,295	*146	4	0.98	0.99
13	EXCLUSIVE QUALITY (03, Elusive Quality), Journeyman Stud	\$2,500	32/3	0/0	0/0	(Red Brunette, \$21,500)	\$76,646	188	4	1.12	1.11
14	CIRCULAR QUAY (04, Thunder Gulch), Journeyman Stud	\$2,500	29/2	0/0	0/0	(Jewel in the Sky, \$16,100)	\$69,740	96	1	0.98	1.43
15	COWTOWN CAT (04, Distorted Humor), Journeyman Stud	\$2,500	18/3	0/0	0/0	(Dave the Usher, \$22,800)	\$68,604	87	1	1.16	1.32
16	SAINT ANDDAN (02, A.P. Indy), Journeyman Stud	\$2,000	20/4	0/0	0/0	(Carolina Lizard, \$15,942)	\$65,149	*114	5	0.99	1.27
17	ROAR OF THE TIGER (99, Storm Cat)	Died, 2010	15/3	0/0	0/0	(Bear Tough Tiger, \$39,125)	\$63,619	*306	7	0.86	1.18
18	LEADING THE PARADE (01, A.P. Indy)	N/A	19/3	0/0	0/0	(Runaway Que, \$13,800)	\$60,619	80	0	0.64	1.00
19	VALUE PLUS (01, Unbridled's Song), HallMarc Stallions at Stonewall Farm	N/A	28/4	0/0	0/0	(Go Olivia Go, \$16,250)	\$59,665	*322	3	1.00	1.20
20	IT'S NO JOKE (02, Distorted Humor), HallMarc Stallions at Stonewall Farm	\$3,000	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Mr. Prankster, \$18,000)	\$57,814	65	3	1.34	1.11

which encompasses 2.2 million acres and includes Humewood Castle in Ireland, about a 90-minute drive from Dublin. The Malones bought the Victorian Gothic castle, which was built in the 1860s, last year around the same time they acquired Bridlewood.

"I think she has probably restored or built more than 50 houses around the world," John said of his wife, the daughter of a builder. "She has many beautiful finished products to her credit."

Driven predominantly by a desire to preserve the past and create opportunity, the Malones, who have called Denver, Colo., home for more than 40 years, see parallels between Humewood Castle and Bridlewood Farm.

"We like to restore things. We decided to invest in Ireland at the same time for the same reasons—restoration and aesthetics," said John. "The community there needed some enthusiasm and some jobs, frankly. It's been great. It's wonderful to be

able to employ people in things they like to do. That's the reward in building companies and in restoration and preservation. In the process you are creating career opportunities for a lot of people. You can't take it with you, so you have to figure out what to do with it."

Purchased for \$14 million, Bridlewood Farm was brought to the Malones' attention by Chris and Rob Desino of Ocala Horse Properties.

"We came out and looked at the prop-



Bridlewood's training center is a key component to the 800-acre full-service facility

2014 Florida Sires by Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Wildcat Heir	63	12
Graeme Hall	40	12
With Distinction	73	10
Montbrook	29	5
Repent	27	5
Harlington	22	5
Concorde's Tune	29	4
Value Plus	28	4
Imperialism	27	4
Double Honor	26	4
Saint Anddan	20	4
A. P. Warrior	16	4
Two Step Salsa	16	4
Black Mambo	14	4
Exclusive Quality	32	3
High Cotton	23	3
Leading the Parade	19	3
Cowtown Cat	18	3
Roar of the Tiger	15	3
In Summation	11	3
Silver Tree	5	3

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For 2013 lists: stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions exported prior to the 2009 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. All available statistics listed for the Northern Hemisphere through Dec. 31, 2013. For 2014 lists: stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions exported prior to the 2010 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. All available statistics listed for the Northern Hemisphere through Jan. 29, 2014. As supplied to *The Blood-Horse* by The Jockey Club Information Systems, Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race.)

*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00; COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.

2013 LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA



Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2013 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	WITH DISTINCTION (01, Storm Cat), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbred	\$7,500	188/105	5/7	2/5	(Merit Man, \$208,830)	\$4,589,214	*347	9	1.15	1.21
2	WILDCAT HEIR (00, Forest Wildcat), Journeyman Stud	\$10,000	180/109	4/7	0/4	(Heir Kitty, \$273,472)	\$4,304,493	*406	21	1.47	1.53
3	GRAEME HALL (97, Dehere), Winding Oaks Farm	\$4,000	127/78	2/3	0/2	(Marathon Lady, \$277,100)	\$2,839,301	*404	22	1.46	1.25
4	EXCLUSIVE QUALITY (03, Elusive Quality), Journeyman Stud	\$2,500	96/63	3/5	1/3	(Sr. Quisqueyano, \$347,050)	\$2,630,627	153	4	1.12	1.11
5	REPENT (99, Louis Quatorze), Woodford Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	129/63	3/3	0/3	(Crown Polis, \$132,439)	\$2,430,435	*452	24	1.14	1.21
6	VALUE PLUS (01, Unbridled's Song), HallMarc Stallions at Stonewall Farm	N/A	116/62	2/3	1/2	(Sweet Maxine, \$122,470)	\$2,128,938	*306	3	1.00	1.20
7	CITY PLACE (00, Storm Cat), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	67/50	1/1	1/1	(Talent N Passion, \$156,870)	\$1,779,458	209	10	1.36	1.05
8	A. P. WARRIOR (03, A.P. Indy), HallMarc Stallions at Stonewall Farm	\$4,500	80/38	1/1	1/1	(Hallie Brooks, \$165,380)	\$1,659,159	*135	4	0.98	0.99
9	POLLARD'S VISION (01, Carson City), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$5,000	89/38	2/3	1/2	(Got Shades, \$134,123)	\$1,475,272	*301	15	1.55	1.31
10	HIGH COTTON (03, Dixie Union), Ocala Stud Farm	\$7,500	75/32	0/0	0/0	(Speak Logistics, \$216,100)	\$1,388,465	*129	4	1.22	1.27
11	CONCORDE'S TUNE (89, Concorde Bound)	Died, 2011	66/39	3/3	0/3	(Wicked Tune, \$136,825)	\$1,346,037	486	29	1.27	1.13
12	HARLINGTON (02, Unbridled), Winding Oaks Farm	\$1,500	52/30	1/2	0/1	(Run a Dubb Dubb, \$151,771)	\$1,276,966	*81	1	1.09	1.62
13	IMPERIALISM (01, Langfuhr), Get Away Farm	\$3,500	83/41	1/1	1/1	(Jan's Perfect Star, \$138,827)	\$1,201,180	159	3	0.83	0.98
14	CIRCULAR QUAY (04, Thunder Gulch), Journeyman Stud	\$2,500	60/25	0/0	0/0	(Reporting Star, \$146,637)	\$1,167,608	79	1	0.98	1.43
15	STRONG CONTENDER (03, Maria's Mon), HallMarc Stallions at Stonewall Farm	\$3,000	54/29	2/6	0/2	(Miss Da Point, \$152,916)	\$1,158,629	*138	5	0.97	1.13
16	COWTOWN CAT (04, Distorted Humor), Journeyman Stud	\$2,500	44/27	1/1	0/1	(Dreaming of Susie, \$98,670)	\$1,092,308	67	1	1.16	1.32
17	SAINT ANDDAN (02, A.P. Indy), Journeyman Stud	\$2,000	53/29	2/2	0/2	(Italian Job, \$127,515)	\$1,052,737	*95	5	0.99	1.27
18	ROAR OF THE TIGER (99, Storm Cat)	Died, 2010	61/30	1/1	0/1	(Bear Tough Tiger, \$113,617)	\$1,030,272	*306	7	0.96	1.18
19	MONTBROOK (90, Buckaroo), Ocala Stud Farm	Died	82/34	2/2	1/2	(Cape Finisterre, \$66,310)	\$1,029,572	*819	49	1.55	1.55
20	PROUD ACCOLADE (02, Yes It's True)	Died, 2009	44/23	2/3	0/2	(Majestic Marquet, \$154,600)	\$930,696	*124	6	1.24	1.23
21	BLACK MAMBO (99, Kingmambo)	Died, 2009	42/23	0/0	0/0	(Jack's the Won, \$123,680)	\$874,125	*185	2	0.93	1.30
22	IT'S NO JOKE (02, Distorted Humor), HallMarc Stallions at Stonewall Farm	\$3,000	35/20	2/3	1/2	(Bear No Joke, \$188,544)	\$861,333	63	3	1.34	1.11
23	WEST ACRE (95, Forty Niner)	Died, 2012	35/16	2/2	0/2	(Do it for Don, \$125,065)	\$813,203	305	13	1.41	1.21
24	HEAR NO EVIL (00, Carson City), Journeyman Stud	\$3,000	30/10	2/3	0/2	(Best Plan Yet, \$300,960)	\$793,372	65	4	2.11	1.58
25	DOUBLE HONOR (95, Gone West), Get Away Farm	\$2,500	77/38	1/1	1/1	(So Honored, \$42,800)	\$784,152	*579	21	1.06	1.18
26	INDY WIND (02, A.P. Indy), Journeyman Stud	\$2,500	19/13	1/1	0/1	(A. P. Cino, \$149,823)	\$646,101	33	1	1.13	1.17
27	¶ TWO STEP SALSA (05, Petionville), Get Away Farm	\$7,500	22/10	0/0	0/0	(Dance With Fate, \$155,250)	\$620,716	48	0	1.37	1.08
28	HALO'S IMAGE (91, Halo)	Died, 2010	57/22	0/0	0/0	(Wink At the Girls, \$43,272)	\$580,912	*553	22	1.31	1.30
29	SARAVA (99, Wild Again)	Pnsd	42/18	0/0	0/0	(Coco's Shadow, \$74,575)	\$555,481	168	1	0.68	1.17
30	AWESOME OF COURSE (00, Awesome Again), Journeyman Stud	\$7,500	17/14	2/2	0/2	(Fort Loudon, \$213,850)	\$550,636	48	5	2.87	1.29
31	STRAIGHT MAN (96, Saint Ballado), Signature Stallions	\$6,000	30/16	0/0	0/0	(Italian Nany, \$84,810)	\$536,842	346	11	1.06	1.15
32	WAGON LIMIT (94, Conquistador Cielo), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,000	27/16	0/0	0/0	(Wagson, \$106,076)	\$530,024	182	5	1.30	1.15
33	MARQUETRY (87, Conquistador Cielo)	Died, 2013	31/13	0/0	0/0	(Old Troubador, \$88,518)	\$471,710	*892	34	1.12	1.41
34	LEADING THE PARADE (01, A.P. Indy)	N/A	42/16	0/0	0/0	(Marshall, \$61,960)	\$460,429	72	0	0.64	1.00
35	THE GREEN MONKEY (04, Forestry), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	22/16	1/1	0/1	(Dazzle Me Darling, \$65,400)	\$441,109	28	1	1.02	1.10

erty last February when we first learned it was for sale," said Leslie. "And then we sat on it for a couple of months."

John added, "It's a beautiful property. To find a hill in Florida is a rarity. The place has a lot of natural beauty, and visiting the farm kind of brings out the farmer in me.

"We're approaching retirement age, and we were originally thinking of a retirement place, but then we thought this Thoroughbred thing might be kind of fun. We asked the former owners if we could use the Bridlewood name to honor the history of the farm, and they agreed. I'm sure it was important to the seller, and it's always been important to us to preserve the history."

The Malones have known each other their entire lives. They grew up together in the small town of Milford, Conn., began dating during John's first year at Yale in 1959, and have been married 50 years. They have two children; daughter, Tracy, and son, Evan, and four grandchildren.

The couple delights in combining their passions to preserve the past, act as caring stewards of the land they own, and create opportunity for themselves and those around them.

By breathing new life into Bridlewood Farm, developed in 1976 by the late Arthur I. Appleton and a perennial leader in Florida's Thoroughbred industry ever since, the Malones hope to return the farm to the heights it once enjoyed.

"We would like to build the farm up to what it was in its peak," said John. "We want a resident-owned broodmare band; we want to own stallions and also serve



General manager George Isaacs

clients. I don't know yet what the right balance is, but we'll figure it out. I figure building up a good set of mares is probably a five-year proposition. You don't want to rush into anything, but you build, buy, and develop. On the stallion side you have to always keep your eyes open and build relationships. So much of the business is relationship-based."

The Malones' earliest memories of Florida trace back to their college days. While dating, they would take trips to Florida when on break from school.

"We did our ceremonial two drives to Florida," remembered John. "We hit all the tourist attractions, including Silver Springs in Ocala and went to the horse races and dog tracks. We would make money betting on horses and dogs."

Added Leslie: "The tracks paid for our trips."

The Malones returned to the racetrack for the first time in decades when they attended the Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s Day of Champions at Ocala Training Center in late January. Evidently, John picked up where he left off, correctly selecting Here's Johnny to win the OBS Championship Stakes.

"He's still got it," Leslie declared. "John



Developing a successful racing program is part of the plan for Bridlewood

hasn't lost his touch. It was fun to spend an afternoon at the races again and to visit with other owners and breeders and watch them win races. It was an exciting atmosphere, and it was a lot of fun."

George Isaacs, Bridlewood's general manager since 1996, commented on the Appleton family's difficult decision to put the farm on the market in a 2013 interview: "We're trying to find someone to purchase the property who will embrace what Bridlewood stands for and be true to the philosophy that made the farm what it is. It needs to be someone who is truly appreciative of the facility and the historic tradition behind it."

Any concerns Isaacs harbored about the farm's prospective buyer subsided when he met the Malones for the first time.

"The day I met the Malones I knew instantly that they would be great stewards of the farm," said Isaacs. "I knew they wanted to properly capitalize the equine endeavors so we could become relevant in the industry once again."

The Malones are equally appreciative that Isaacs has agreed to stay on at Bridlewood.

"George is the best tutor we could have," said John. "We're in good hands. We are thrilled George stayed on to lead the effort to rebuild Bridlewood back to its proper role in Florida's horse community. We are completely green when it comes to the Thoroughbred industry, but we love horses and are looking forward to learning."

"The first horse sale George attended for us he came home empty-handed," John added. "It's a testament to his con-

servatism. We have plenty of capital, so it's not a matter of money, but we want our decisions to make sense."

The Thoroughbred industry is filled with cautionary tales for even the wealthiest participants, but the Malones appear to have adopted realistic expectations.

"We understand the horse business has been cyclical, and it is a luxury goods business," said John. "The flow of capital is not profit motivated, but interest motivated. We expected to find this industry still recovering from what was a severe squeeze in 2008 and 2009, and it impacted the real estate side as well as the luxury goods side."

"Any new industry you get into you really have to learn from grass roots up," John added. "I've never taken lightly history and experience that people have in a business. It is one thing to analyze a sheet statistically and figure out odds, but to build a successful business requires a lifetime of experience and expertise. I hope I can learn a fraction of what George knows about this business. It definitely requires a large degree of expertise. I think you have to be very humble about how you approach it."

Faced at one time with an uncertain future, many of Bridlewood's employees were quick to acknowledge the Malones for buying the farm.

"Without invitation, the employees individually came up to the Malones on a recent visit to the farm and introduced themselves," said Isaacs. "They're all very appreciative. It's a new beginning."

The Ocala/Marion County community has also been supportive. "Many people

2013 Florida Sires by Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Wildcat Heir	180	109
With Distinction	188	105
Graeme Hall	127	78
Repent	129	63
Exclusive Quality	96	63
Value Plus	116	62
City Place	67	50
Imperialism	83	41
Concorde's Tune	66	39
Pollard's Vision	89	38
A. P. Warrior	80	38
Double Honor	77	38
Montbrook	82	34
High Cotton	75	32
Roar of the Tiger	61	30
Harlington	52	30
Strong Contender	54	29
Saint Anddan	53	29
Cowtown Cat	44	27
Circular Quay	60	25
Proud Accolade	44	23
Black Mambo	42	23
Halo's Image	57	22
It's No Joke	35	20
Sarava	42	18
Leading the Parade	42	16
West Acre	35	16
Straight Man	30	16
Wagon Limit	27	16
The Green Monkey	22	16
Sweet Return (GB)	32	15
Awesome of Course	17	14
Marquetry	31	13
Scorpion	28	13
Unbridled Time	25	13
Indy Wind	19	13
Gulf Storm	23	11
Cimarron Secret	21	11
Hear No Evil	30	10
In Summation	26	10
Two Step Salsa	22	10
Untutttable	20	9
Wekiva Springs	20	9
Colony Light	17	8
Spellbinder	16	8
Marco Bay	9	8
Texas Glitter	16	7
Boastful	15	7
The Kaiser	8	7
Benny the Bull	19	6
Yesbyjimmy	16	6
Skip Trial	10	5
Indian Express	8	5
Lifestyle	5	5
Weekend Cruise	10	4
Conscience Clear	9	4
Successful Ways	8	4
Awesome Sword	7	4
Diligence	7	4
Orchard Park	6	4

have expressed gratitude that we bought the farm," Leslie said.

Since the Malones took over operation of Bridlewood in August 2013, restoration of the historic property is already underway. A hay barn has been constructed, as well as a new shop and two

12-stall training barns. A new viewing stand to observe training is being built, and fresh fencing is being installed for the broodmare paddocks.

“The Malones are great stewards of the properties they purchase, and the first order of business is to restore the property and structures to better than they were before,” Isaacs explained. “The goal will be to have everything completely refurbished to stay within the character of being an exceptional working farm, not a show place.”

Isaacs is understandably excited about the rejuvenated sense of direction at Bridlewood, and he expects that it will

swing,” said Isaacs, “and with the new hire of trainer Jonathan Thomas and a concerted effort to recruit training business, we far exceeded our first-year goals. Some of the best owners and trainers in the country sent their horses here for the breaking season, and we are very grateful for the opportunity. We also have a core group of clients who board their breeding stock here.

“In my mind, with the training center being the beginning of producing good horses and energy off this farm again, everything will flow from that,” he added. “I’m also confident as our program develops that we will have a successful racing

and, most recently Put It Back all have made their marks on the Sunshine State’s stallion ranks.

The farm will stand five stallions this season, including recently retired Corfu. The 3-year-old son of Malibu Moon—Fashion Cat, by Forest Wildcat, was the \$675,000 sale-topper at the 2013 Barretts March sale.

Racing for Susan Magnier, Michael Tabor, and Derrick Smith, Corfu captured two of six starts and set a stakes record in winning last year’s 6½-furlong Saratoga Special Stakes (gr. II) in 1:15.57 at Saratoga.

“He has all the ingredients that Florida breeders look for,” Isaacs said. “He is a tremendous physical specimen, and there is a lot of speed in his pedigree.”


Backtalk (Smarty Jones—Apasionata Sonata, by Affirmed), Mach Ride (Pentelicus—April Invitation, by Formal Dinner), Wagon Limit (Conquistador Cielo—Darlin Lindy, by Cox’s Ridge), and Yesbyjimmy (Yes It’s True—Sisters Creek, by Pentelicus) round out the 2014 roster.

“I see plenty of opportunity here in Florida for the right kind of horse,” said Isaacs. “In time we aim to be a leader once again.”

The Malones plan to spend four months a year at the farm, and while they look forward to their mornings watching horses train and basking in their deep-rooted appreciation of open spaces, they are clear in what they want Bridlewood Farm to represent.

“We want to be a good employer and a good member of the community and see that places like this are preserved,” said John. “Those are our goals. Mostly for us, it’s about getting along with life and being a good employer. We have a lot of places where we just disappear, and what we really like about the farm is the privacy combined with the activity that we can watch and vicariously participate. If we happen to have fun and have a few winners every now and then, that would be nice.”

One thing is certain: Thanks to the Malones, the storied history of tradition-rich Bridlewood Farm will have at least two eras.

“I knew the moment I met the Malones that they were the right people for this farm,” said Isaacs. “I knew my prayers had been answered for the farm, the Appleton legacy, and all the employees. I know that all of us at Bridlewood are grateful they chose this farm, and we don’t take the opportunity lightly. We have a very bright future ahead of us.” 



The stallion barn will be home to five stallions for the 2014 breeding season

require time for all the moving parts to settle into place.

“Because Mr. Malone’s company Liberty Media owns the Atlanta Braves, I use the analogy that building a program here at Bridlewood is somewhat akin to a sports franchise,” related Isaacs. “We were once a major league team, but our players had retired or been traded. For us to be competitive once again, we are going to need to recruit new players, meaning good horses and good people or employees.

“The great thing about this whole experience is that we don’t have to accomplish this overnight, and we can take an organic approach,” Isaacs added. “We are going to build a quality program one horse at a time. For Bridlewood to return to its operational peak, we are looking at a five-year plan.”

The plan for the 800-acre full-service facility consists of four revenue streams: boarding, stallions, racing, and sales.

“The board revenue is already in full

stable. And I’m sure we will eventually start selling some horses.”

Giving the new course legs, Bridlewood Farm purchased seven yearlings, now 2-year-olds, at last year’s Keeneland September sale. Among them, C Note, a \$550,000 Scat Daddy half sister to Gazelle Stakes (gr. I) winner Dance Card; Divine Trick, a \$200,000 Divine Park filly out of stakes winner On the Menu from the family of grade I stakes winners Include Me Out and Check the Label; and Eliza’s Cat, a daughter of Malibu Moon from the family of Eclipse Award champion Eliza and Florida Derby (gr. I) winner Dialed In, who cost \$320,000.

“The new purchases represent the beginning of our racing stable, and, hopefully, our broodmare band as well,” said Isaacs. “They were handpicked with a top physical being paramount.”

Bridlewood Farm is renowned for developing leading stallions. Silver Buck, Skip Trial, Stormy Atlantic, Halo’s Image,