

CHEERS TO THE BREEDER AT THE BREEDERS' CUP

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LYON'S DREAM REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

By Christie DeBernardis

Jane Lyon dreamed of breeding and raising high-quality horses from the time she was a little girl. With the help of her husband Frank Lyon, that dream became a reality through the purchase and development of Summer Wind Farm in Georgetown, KY, which now houses an elite broodmare band that includes Littleprincessemma, the dam of Triple Crown winner American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile).



Jane Lyon | Fasig-Tipton photo

"It was a dream of mine from childhood to someday raise some really good horses in the Bluegrass," Lyon said from her other home in Arkansas. "I had never been to the Bluegrass, but it was just a dream. In 1995, my husband purchased Summer Wind Farm for us. At the time, I only had two geldings that my daughter rode in horse shows and no Thoroughbreds. It was a quick learning curve. I can't explain it. It is just a passion."

Lyon's lifelong dream and passion reached a new level this year thanks to undefeated MGISW and likely GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies favorite **Moonshine Memories** (Malibu Moon). The bay filly was bred by Lyon out of Summer Wind homebred Unenchantedevening (Unbridled's Song), a half-sister to 1997 Horse of the Year Favorite Trick.

"I can't tell you how excited I am," Lyon said. "This is our first multiple Grade I winner that we have bred on the farm out of a homebred. There is just nothing like it. I am a grandmother, so I kind of feel like this filly's grandmother. I am just so excited that the potential in this family is starting to come forward."

Lyon purchased Moonshine Memories' second dam, MSW Evil Elaine, just before her then-undefeated son Favorite Trick won the 1997 GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile, after which he was named champion 2-year-old colt and Horse of the Year.

"I was fortunate enough to purchase Evil Elaine the day before Favorite Trick won the Breeders' Cup. I got very lucky," Lyon said. "[Unenchantedevening] is the only filly out of that mare that I kept on the farm as a broodmare. The mare is a nice enough mare, she's attractive, big and has a lot of heart."

Runner-up to future MGISW Dream Rush (Wild Rush) on debut after being hit on both sides at the start, Unenchantedevening went on to win just one of her seven starts in her brief career.

"She raced a little bit, not very successfully, then she got sick and Todd [Pletcher] sent her home," Lyon explained. "When I got her in good health, I decided not to send her back and kept her and turned her into a broodmare. She has had several foals. I think six have gone to the track and all six are winners, but, of course, nothing like Moonshine Memories. She was a very pleasant surprise."

Moonshine Memories was purchased by Bridlewood Farm and the Coolmore contingent for \$650,000 at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Yearling Sale and put in training with California-based conditioner Simon Callaghan. Named a **"TDN Rising Star"** off an impressive debut win at Del Mar Aug. 19, she followed suit with a pair of decisive victories in the GI Del Mar Debutante Sept. 2 ([video](#)) and GI Chandelier S. Sept. 30 ([video](#)).

"Moonshine Memories was exceptional in that she was one of the best movers we have ever produced," Lyon said. "She was a lovely filly in every respect. That is why we took her to Saratoga, because she was early and pretty much perfect. She was purchased and we kept hearing reports that they liked her and they were thinking she would be able to run. I am just blown away. I really am. I just get chills when I think about her."



Moonshine Memories | Benoit



Frank & Jane Lyon | Horsephotos

Lyon recently sold Moonshine Memories' yearling half-sister by Distorted Humor for \$750,000 to Robert and Lawana Low at the Keeneland September sale. Unenchantedevening produced a colt by Honor Code earlier this term and is currently carrying a Malibu Moon filly.

"I sold her half-sister this year at Keeneland and it was very difficult for me to make that decision because I don't have any fillies out of [Unenchantedevening] and she is already 13," Lyon said. "But, she is carrying a full-sister to Moonshine Memories and I am hopeful if that filly is born healthy and everything, she will remain with our operation."

Lyon has made headlines at the breeding stock sales over the years, scooping up celebrity mares such as \$2.1 million FTKNOV purchase Littleprincessemma, the dam of three-time champion American Pharoah; \$1.5 million FTKNOV buy More Hennessy, the dam of GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf winner Hootenanny (Quality Road); GSW Tapicat (Tapit), a \$2.2 million KEENOV purchase; and Grade I winner Aubby K (Street Sense), a \$2.4 million FTKNOV buy.

"I am trying to go in the same direction that Frank and I had always planned to go, which was to be quality over quantity and to try and play at the top end of the market, in the top 5%," said Lyon, who currently has about 25 broodmares. "That has always been our goal and some years we have been more successful than others."



Summer Wind-bred stakes winner Kareena | Sarah Andrew

Lyon has been making change over the years, however. The breeder is shifting her focus from mares with impressive racetrack records to mares who have proven to be successful producers, such as Littleprincessemma and Evil Elaine.

"I have already begun changing my focus from the top end mares off the track," explained Lyon, who has already bred the likes of MGSWs Indygo Shiner (A.P. Indy) and India (Hennessy); and India's SW daughter Kareena (Medaglia d'Oro), who is also a **"TDN Rising Star."** "They don't always turn into producers, unfortunately. In my experience, it happens less often than you would hope. So, my goal now is to buy producers and I realized they are even harder to come by than very good race mares. I am just going to try to be very selective and find some more that have already produced."

This new model has already proven successful through St. Patrick's Day (Pioneerof the Nile), a juvenile full-brother to American Pharoah who broke his maiden for Bob Baffert and Coolmore this summer; and of course Moonshine Memories.



Moonshine Memories | Benoit

"I think if you don't keep [upping your game], you are going the other way," said Lyon, who named Moonshine Memories as the best horse she has ever bred. "It is a tough business, tougher than I ever imagined. I don't know how to explain it other than a passion. I hope that if I am granted a number of more years on this earth that I can continue with it and continue to improve."

Moonshine Memories is not the first Breeders' Cup runner bred by Summer Wind Farm, who may also be represented by GSP **Gato Del Oro** (Medaglia d'Oro) in this year's GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile if he draws in. However, if Moonshine Memories crosses the finish line first Nov. 4 at Del Mar, she would be the first Breeders' Cup winner bred and raised by Lyon's nursery.

"[Breeding a Breeders' Cup winner] would be the whole reason I have done this for 22 years," Lyon said. "It would be a level I have been working towards all this time. It would be kind of tough to go back to the farm after you've been to Paris. It would be like, maybe we really can do this and focus on raising that caliber horse more often."