

Show News Continued



Michelle Durpetti and Serafina
Photo by Collin Pierson Photography

Professional rider and trainer **Caitlyn Shields** and amateur equestrian **Michelle Durpetti** represented Canterbury Farm at the world-renowned **Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF)** in Wellington, Florida, to kick off their 2017 show season. With five horses in Wellington to start the circuit, Caitlyn and Michelle had a great opening week. Michelle rode **Serafina** to a third place finish in the **Low Adult Jumper 36 & Over** with double clear rounds. Michelle also rode **Lucca** to a seventh place finish in the **Amateur-Owner Hunter 33 3/4 & Over** division. Meanwhile, Caitlyn piloted **Don Stewart's Cassius** to fourth and seventh place ribbons in week one's competitive **Performance Working Hunter 36"** division, and also showed her gelding **Cavalier II** in the 1.30m jumper division. Based in Hampshire, Illinois, Canterbury Farm is led by head trainer **Greg Franklin**. After starting their season in Wellington, Caitlyn and Michelle will join Franklin and the rest of the Canterbury Farm team in Ocala, Florida, for the **HTTS Ocala Winter Circuit**.



Liam Lotte, Oliver Firestone, Christian Weisz, Harrison Azzaro

The annual **Floridian Community Bank "Buck Off"** to benefit **Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center** in South Florida was a great success, as each week teams worked hard to make it to the championships. The **Tackeria** foursome used its youth and stamina to hold off 12 other teams to capture top honors in the opening qualifying round held at the **White Horse Fashion Cuisine**. The Tackeria team of **Oliver Firestone, Liam Lotte, Harrison Azzaro** and **Christian Weisz** posted a score of 377 points (out of 400) and outlasted the field. Way to go!



MCP Mike Azzaro with George Dupont of the Museum of Polo and Hall of Fame
Photo by David Lomiska

La Indiana and **Mt. Brilliant** bested undefeated opponents in the **Joe Barry Memorial Semifinal** matches in January at the **International Polo Club Palm Beach** in Wellington, Florida. In a decisive victory, **La Indiana** defeated **Mt. Brilliant** with a final score 13-10 to seize the **Joe Barry Memorial trophy**. The tournament honors the great polo legend **Joe Barry**, who passed away in 2002. Inducted into the **Polo Hall of Fame** in 1999, his major wins included six **U.S. Open Polo Championships***, three **USPA Gold Cup*** titles and the 1971 **Coronation Cup in England**. His son, accomplished polo player **Joe Wayne Barry** presented awards at the final in honor of his father. **Most Valuable Player** was awarded to **La Indiana's** high-scorer **Mike Azzaro**. **Best Playing Pony** honors were presented to Tanoira-bred Argentine gelding **Africano** ridden and owned by **Gringo Colombres**.



Vasco Flores and Balou 660
Photo by Jump Media

Balou 660, owned by **Gotham Enterprizes** and ridden by **Vasco Flores (PUR)**, was recognized as the first winner of the **Equis Boutique Best Presented Horse** award in 2017 at the 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) in Wellington, Florida. **Balou 660**, a ten-year-old Hanoverian gelding (**Balou du Rouet x Ramiro**), impressed the FEI Ground Jury, led by President **Gerry Briggs**, to be named the **Equis Best Presented** at the FEI Horse Inspection. It was the first time that **Vasco**,

26, had won the **Equis Best Presented Horse Award**, given by **Equis Boutique** co-founders **Cesar Hirsch** and **Elena Couttenye**. "It is a real honor to represent **Gotham Enterprizes** and **Georgina Bloomberg**, and it is great to start the season off with any prize," said **Flores**, who has been riding at **Bloomberg's Gotham Enterprizes** for three and a half years. "Everyone at our barn takes management and presentation to heart, so this means a lot to us."

In The News

New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program recently opened a New York satellite facility at **October Hill Farm** in Fort Edward. Owned by **Dan and Danielle Dill**, the brand-new equestrian facility has partnered with **New Vocations** to assist in expanding the program's New York aftercare efforts. Trainer **Leandra Cooper** will spearhead the transitional training and adoption operations at the facility. For more information concerning the expansion, please visit www.newvocations.org.



President George W. Bush with troopers in 2008

The **First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry (FTPCC)** was honored and proud to carry on its tradition of service to our democratic republic at the inauguration of the **45th President of these United States of America**. The (FTPCC) – an Army Cavalry unit that has fought battles from the **American Revolution** through the **War on Terror** – conducted its sixty-first escort for a President of the United States and its fifth presidential inaugural parade appearance on horseback. In addition to presidents, FTPCC has had the privilege of providing escort for famed military generals (**Pershing, Schwartzkopf**, others), war heroes (**"Band of Brothers" hero Maj. Dick Winters**, others), royalty (**Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles, Prince Andrew, Prince Edward, King and Queen of Sweden**, others). Since its November 17, 1774 inception, 2,460 men have served in FTPCC, forty-three of whom were killed in combat. Present-day Troopers represent a broad and diverse range of backgrounds, professions, ethnicities, religions, and places of origin.