



DRAFT NEWS RELEASE

DERBY DAY AT THE MEADOW MAY 5

The first "Derby Day at the Meadow" presented by the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation at James River and the Secretariat tourism program at The Meadow Event Park promises much more than mint juleps on Saturday May 5.

"What better place to celebrate the 143rd running of the Kentucky Derby than at the birthplace of the greatest Derby winner in history - Secretariat," said Stephanie Nixon, president of James River TRF.

"This year also marks the 45th anniversary of Secretariat's Triple Crown," noted Leeanne Meadows Ladin, Secretariat tourism manager. "Not only does his Derby record still stand, but also his track records in the Preakness and Belmont. So we are pulling out all the stops for a great celebration!"

Two Secretariat descendants will represent their famous ancestor at the Derby party: Covert Action and Groundshaker. Covert Action, a grandson of Secretariat, is the "spokeshorse" for the James River TRF, a symbol of the organization's mission to help retired racehorses find new homes and new careers.

Groundshaker, a great-great granddaughter of Secretariat, is the star attraction of the Secretariat Birthplace Tours at The Meadow. She is last racehorse bred and raced by Penny Chenery, Secretariat's late owner. However, the scene stealer may be Mia the miniature horse, Groundshaker's spunky companion, who will be dressed as a "mini-Secretariat," complete with a blanket of Derby roses. In addition to the three horses, there will be a life-size standing poster of Secretariat for photo ops.

Mint juleps will be plentiful at the cocktail reception in Meadow Hall mansion, which will feature "Derby fare with a Virginia flair." Guests can also enjoy "Meadow Mint Julep Tram Tours" around the original barns where Secretariat was born, raised and first trained. The barns are listed on both the state and national historic registers.

Of course there will be a Derby Hat Contest, which will take place on the veranda. Bill Bevins, popular Richmond radio personality, will be the emcee of the contest.

Large screen TVs inside the mansion will show race coverage as well as videos of Secretariat's Triple Crown races. Guests can stroll through The Meadow Champion Galleries, Triple Crown Room and view the Chenery Collection of Meadow Stable memorabilia. Official James River TRF and Secretariat merchandise will be available for purchase during the party.

Proceeds from the "Derby Day at The Meadow" will benefit the James River TRF and the Historic Barn Restoration Fund at The Meadow. To purchase tickets, please see www.jamesriverhorses.org.

The Meadow Event Park is located in Caroline County 1.5 miles from King's Dominion.

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More about the James River TRF: At the James River Work Center in Goochland, offenders care for the horses and become certified in the nationally acclaimed Groom Elite program in the process. The horses here are assured a lifetime of care with the opportunity to be adopted out if suited. Our success stories confirm that our program is horses helping people, people helping horses. Read more at www.jamesriverhorses.org

More about the Secretariat tourism program: Our vision is to preserve the historic legacy and present the full story of the birthplace of Secretariat. Our efforts are focused on our year-round narrated tours, special events, and careful preservation of the existing assets and rare Meadow Stable memorabilia. See <https://www.meadoweventpark.com/secretariat-birthplace-tours/>.