

## ROLLING BLUEGRASS BEAUTY — KEENELAND'S LANDSCAPE

### Landscape Beauty of Generations

Keeneland's park-like setting was designed in the late 1930's by the landscape architecture firm of Innocenti and Webel to reflect the philosophy of Keeneland: to meet the needs of horses and Keeneland's guests by providing a relaxed park setting excellent for picnicking and enjoyment of horses.

All the trees and bushes on Keeneland's property were planted with April blossoms and fall foliage in mind, with horse safety and comfort being a top priority. Many of the trees are indigenous to Kentucky, and all have been selected for their ability to thrive in limestone-rich soil.

The most recognized trees include dogwoods, crabapples, magnolias, Yoshino cherry, sycamore, Chinese elms, Pin oaks and maples. An impressive allée of Autumn Blaze maples usher patrons down the long clubhouse drive, while the parking lot, with its rolling acres of long grassy strips punctuated by row after row of soldierly columns of Pin oaks has been described as the most beautiful parking lot in America.



Trees shelter patrons in the paddock, provide shade for horses encircling them in the saddling ring and are clustered throughout the grounds to provide shady spots for picnicking and socializing. Trees frame the panoramic views of the surrounding Bluegrass countryside, dotted with tobacco barns and grazing horses.

From the grandstand to the barn areas, the land surrounding Keeneland has been cultivated with the best interest of its visiting horses in mind. Unlike many tracks without the luxury of a more rural setting, the Keeneland barns are surrounded by grassy areas, allowing horses an area in which to cool down and unwind after training and racing.

Keeneland's landscape architects have created walkways to the track through the paddocks using recycled rubber "bricks." This surface is much softer than traditional brick, provides better traction and is much more forgiving on horses delicate hooves.

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## Clubhouse Floral

Breathtaking in both composition and size, the floral arrangements inside the clubhouse are legendary. Spectacular floral vignettes are carefully created for the balcony overlooking the clubhouse's main floor. Enormous, ornate arrangements—some as tall as six feet—are a vision of tulips, lily of the valley, and freesia in the spring and fiery red and orange chrysanthemums in the fall.

The clubhouse's floral arrangements have been created by local florist Howard-Doyle (formerly Howard & Heafy), since Keeneland's inaugural season.



## The Haggin Family

Howard-Doyle Florists (formerly Howard and Heafy) worked closely with Mrs. Louis Lee Haggin II, wife of former Keeneland Association president, since the first race meeting in 1936. Mr. Haggin initiated the well-groomed clubhouse garden and ornate floral arrangements because he believed in extending Keeneland's philosophy of respect for horses, their owners and race patrons through landscape design. Today, the family's

stewardship of Keeneland's landscape is continued by her son Louis Haggin III, who also serves as a trustee and director at Keeneland.

Several years ago, Louis III developed a tree nursery on-site that allows Keeneland to replace aging and sick trees on its property. Currently, there are hundreds of trees and shrubs growing in the nursery, including poplars, Pin oaks, Chinese elms, and a variety of maple.

Landscaping was a key component of Keeneland's massive racetrack renovation that took place in the summer of 2006, and the result was an even more spectacular array of foliage around the racetrack. During the project, Haggin worked closely with noted landscape architect George Betsill, whose other clients are the famed Augusta National Golf Club and the Greenbrier golf course. Haggin's on-site nursery provided a number of trees and shrubs for the project.

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