



Claude R. "Shug" McGaughey III

Born: Jan. 6, 1951 in Lexington, Ky.

Resident: Old Westbury, N.Y.; North Miami Beach, Fla.

Family: Allison (wife), Claude R. IV and John Reeve (sons).

Claude R. "Shug" McGaughey III's record at Keeneland

Total wins: 100

Stakes Wins (15)

- Inducted into the Racing Hall of Fame in 2004.
- Received the 1988 Eclipse Award as the country's outstanding trainer.
- Trainer of nine champions—Easy Goer, Heavenly Prize, Inside Information, Personal Ensign, Queena, Rhythm, Smuggler, Storm Flag Flying and Vanlandingham.
- Trained Personal Ensign through an unbeaten career of 13 races, culminating with the Breeders' Cup Distaff.
- Has won nine Breeders' Cup races—1988 Distaff, Personal Ensign; 1989 Sprint, Dancing Spree, and Juvenile, Rhythm; 1992 and 1993 Mile, Lure; 1995, Juvenile Fillies, My Flag, Distaff, Inside Information; 2002 Juvenile Fillies, Storm Flag Flying; and 2005 Distaff, Pleasant Home.
- Won the 1989 Belmont Stakes with Hall of Fame member Easy Goer.
- Leading trainer at Keeneland six times (1984, 1993 and 1996 spring and 1983-1985 fall).
- Leading trainer at Churchill Downs in the spring of 1985.
- Has won the Spinster three times (Try Something New, 1983; Dispute, 1994; and Inside Information, 1995) and the Ashland three times (Inside Information, 1994; My Flag, 1995; and Glitter Woman, 1997).
- On Kentucky Derby Eve in 1993, he won the Kentucky Oaks with Dispute, the Early Times Turf Classic with Lure and the Louisville Budweiser Breeders' Cup with Quilma.
- On Breeders' Cup Preview Day in 1993 at Belmont, he won six of the day's 10 races, five of six stakes and three of four Grade 1 events (Miner's Mark in the Jockey Club Gold Cup, Heavenly Prize in the Frizette and Dispute in the Beldame).
- Leading trainer at Saratoga (1994) and Belmont (fall 1994).
- Ranks tenth by career stakes wins at Keeneland with 15.

Lexingtonian Shug McGaughey may not have come from a racing background, but he's more than made up for it.

He recalled going to the races as a youngster. "My parents took me to Keeneland, and I had a great time. I liked the atmosphere and the feel of competition. I was hooked."

His father would signal to the betting clerks that it was OK to let Shug place a bet. "We usually managed to get him a ticket that would win, like a \$2 show, and let him cash it," his father said. "He seemed to like all that, and he liked the crowds and the excitement."

McGaughey attended the University of Mississippi for a while before he began walking hots for David Carr. He started working for Frank Whiteley in 1974 as a groom and later became an assistant for Whiteley's son, David, for five years.

"I think about all the things I learned from Mr. Whiteley and David I use today," he said. "Efficiency in your stable would be one thing. Patience with your horses would be another. We did a tremendous amount of leg work down there (in Camden, S.C.) in the wintertime—blistering and that kind of stuff. Learned the basics of my feed program from them. So, really, all the basic things that we use in our everyday stuff came from Mr. Whiteley and David, and the basis of it through working in Camden in the wintertime."

By 1979, McGaughey had taken out his first trainer's license and was given his first stalls by the late Howard Battle at Keeneland.

"They've done that to a lot of young guys, too," he said. "They've given them a chance by giving them stalls, where a lot of race-tracks would snub their nose at you. But Bill Greely and Howard Battle have had the vision that 'we'll start helping maybe some of the guys early (and) if some of them make it they're going to help us in the long run.' And I hope that we've all done that."

His first stakes win was also his first graded win—the 1978 Apple Blossom Handicap with Northernette. He initially trained for Bacacita Stable before opening a public operation in 1980.

His first Grade 1 win came in 1983 at Keeneland, when John A. Bell III's Try Something New won the Spinster Stakes.

He has listed that victory as one of the highlights of his career. "...I've won races that were bigger races, but I doubt that I've had any that were more exciting or meant more to me than that one," he once said.

McGaughey had attracted the attention of John Ed Anthony and began training for his Loblolly Stable in 1982. He developed his first champion for Loblolly, Vanlandingham, who was voted champion handicap male in 1985 after winning such races as the Washington, D.C., International Stakes, the Jockey Club Gold Cup and the Suburban Handicap.

In November 1985, he was named trainer for Ogden Phipps. Leading Kentucky horsemen Warner L. Jones, Jr. and Seth Hancock had recommended McGaughey to the

Phipps. He won his first race for the stable in December, when Erin Bright won the Display Handicap. Under his direction, the Phipps stable regained the position of prominence it had held earlier.

While most of the horses he trains have been owned by the Phipps family, he also has had horses for other clients, including Stuart Janney III.

Of Ogden Phipps, who died in April of 2002 at age 93, McGaughey told *Daily Racing Form*: "People didn't really understand or know Mr. Phipps. He was kind of from the old-school wealth, a little bit shy in his daily activities, but he was a very, very kind person. He loved the horses and was very appreciative of anything you accomplished with them."

McGaughey bases his operation in New York and winters at Gulfstream Park.

In addition to Try Something New's Spinster win, he lists other career highlights this way: "Personal Ensign retiring undefeated, the six wins on Breeders' Cup Preview Day, and Easy Goer's Belmont."

McGaughey has trained enough good horses to comprise a lengthy list, among them Awe Inspiring, Classy Cathy, Coronado's Quest, Duty Dance, Educated Risk, Fast Play, Miner's Mark, Personal Flag, Seeking the Gold, Serra Lake, Storm Flag Flying, Strolling Along, Traditionally, and Versailles Treaty.

In 2002, despite undergoing triple bypass surgery in June, the stable included champion Storm Flag Flying and graded winners Pure Prize, Maybry's Boy, Cat Cay and Trip. In '03, he won graded races with Yell and La Reina.

His stable ranked 19th in 2004, with earnings of \$4,208,832. Grade 1 winner Storm Flag Flying was joined by other graded winners Good Reward, Jackpot, Daydreaming and Defer. And he was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

"It was a real good year for us," he told *Daily Racing Form*. "Hopefully, things will be even better in 2005."

And it was another good year. Eclipse-winning 3-year-old filly Smuggler was in his barn along with his ninth Breeders' Cup winner—Pleasant Home, who won the Distaff. He also trained Grade 1 winner Good Reward (Manhattan Handicap) and graded winners Survivalist, Daydreaming and Philanthropist. His horses won 42 races during the year and earned more than \$4 million.

Last year, the ill-fated Pine Island was a dual Grade 1 winner and Boca Grande (Demoiselle) and Happy Hunting (Aqueduct Handicap) also won graded races. His stable earned more than \$2.4 million. Boca Grande "gives us something to look forward to," he told *Daily Racing Form*. "It was looking a little bleak over there."

According to Equineline.com, McGaughey had won 1,482 races and his stable had earned \$93,437,895 through Jan. 9, 2007. He was credited with 141 stakes winners.

