

## MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL Officers and Board of Directors

### OFFICERS:

- Stuart Pittman, President
- Jane Seigler, Vice President
- Christine Bricker, Secretary
- Royce Herman, Treasurer
- Margaret Rizzo, MHC Administrator

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Carroll County Equestrian Council, Joseph Zentgraf  
 Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horses, Jacquelyn Cowan  
 Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association, Sharon Roberts  
 Days End Farm Rescue, Inc., Kathleen Howe  
 Dir. at Large Businesses, Crystal Kimball  
 Dir. at Large Businesses, Keith Wills  
 Dir. at Large Farms, Karen Fulton  
 Dir. at Large Farms, Stuart Pittman  
 Dir. at Large Farms, Jane Seigler  
 Dir. at Large Individuals, Amy Burk  
 Dir. at Large Individuals, Rob Burk  
 Dir. at Large Individuals, Mike Erskine  
 Dir. at Large Individuals, Fred Lewis  
 Dir. at Large Individuals, Beverly A. Raymond  
 Dir. at Large Youth, Darryll Ann Buschling  
 Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc., Deborah Rollins Frank  
 Fair Hill International, Inc., Trish Gilbert  
 Frederick County Equine Alliance, Judy Smith  
 Graham Equestrian Center, Inc., Jim McDonald  
 Howard County Horse Show Association, Mary Anne Steele  
 Howard County-Iron Bridge Hounds, Crystal Kimball  
 Humane Society of Carroll County, Nicky Ratliff  
 League of Maryland Horseman, Carrie Reed

Marlborough Hunt Club, Christy Clagett  
 Maryland 4-H Foundation, Kristin Wilson  
 Maryland Association for Wildlife Conservation, Patty Sasscer  
 Maryland Association of Equine Practicioners, Mike Erskine  
 Maryland Combined Training Association, Steve Fulton  
 Maryland Dressage Association, Margaret Wilterdink  
 Maryland Equestrian Foundation/Rosaryville Conservancy, Dorothy Troutman  
 Maryland Farriers Association, Doug Anderson  
 Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Cricket Goodall  
 Maryland Horse Show Association, Alan Lohman  
 Maryland Jockey Club, Carrie Everly  
 Maryland Standardbred Breeders Association, Felicia Hilleary  
 Maryland State Quarter Horse Association, Eileen Simpson  
 Maryland Steeplechase Association, Crystal Kimball  
 Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Association, David Turner  
 New Market-Middleton Valley Hounds, Guillermo Warley  
 Pasadena Horse and Pony Association, Allison Asti  
 Plantation Walking Horses of Maryland, VACANT  
 Potomac Hunt Club, Charlie Mess  
 Potomac Valley Dressage Association, Carolyn Del Grosso  
 Prince George's Equestrian Center (Show Place Arena), Elizabeth Yewell  
 Ranger Foundation, Barbara Kraft  
 Trail Riders of Today--TROT, Ron MacNab  
 Tuckahoe Equestrian Center, Royce Herman  
 Washington International Horse Show, VACANT  
 Wicomico Hunt Club, Jane Rhoades

### DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING!

• **Quarterly Board Meeting:** Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD. Tour at 4pm! Reception at 6pm! All members welcome!



ONE COMMON BOND - THE HORSE; ONE COMMON VOICE - MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL

# MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL

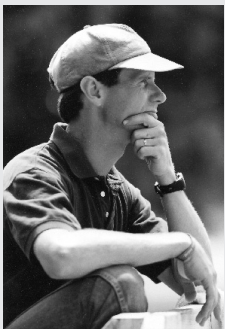
FALL 2010

## Message from the President *Stuart Pittman*

Last fall the Maryland Horse Council released what we called an Action Plan in response to recommendations made by the 300 people who had attended the Maryland Horse Industry Board's Horse Forum. For me, that document not only identified the issues that our members care most about, but also offered a strategy to expand the size and strength of this organization in the coming years.

Our success so far has depended on the willingness of good people to take on leadership roles. The Save The Horse Farms Campaign, the Business Network, the Unwanted Horse Project, and our grassroots lobbying of state legislators have each taken place because somebody or a small group made it happen. By expanding our activities we have expanded both our leadership corps and our membership base. None of us, however, are satisfied.

The Save The Horse Farms Campaign depends on groups forming in every county. The Business Network wants even more farm and business members to attend. The Unwanted Horse Project will require fundraising and volunteers. Signing lawmakers on to our MHC Legislator Support Statement will require everyone to contact their representatives. And, if we make a decision at our November 16 Annual Meeting to create the MHC Political Action Committee, there will be candidates to interview, money to raise, and an endorsement process to create.

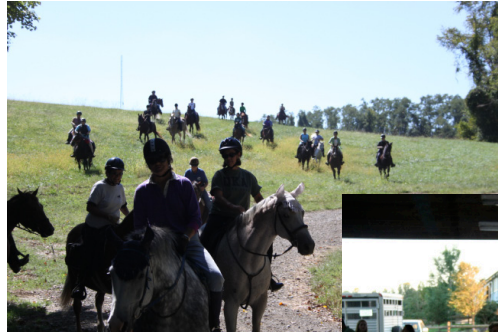


Those of us who spend more time than our families and employers would like on this organization can honestly say that we have fun doing it. Organizing people around a cause is satisfying work, and horse people are, in most cases, fun to be around. So don't miss the next meeting, whether you are a board member or not, and make sure your friends are all members. We are not just an industry, we are also a community. ■

## BBQ AT FAIR HILL TRAINING CENTER HONORS NAOMI MANDERS

September 18 was a well-rounded celebration of horses in Maryland. It started with a trail ride and historic tour of the Fair Hill property led by Louisa Emerick.

Later, it moved over to the Training Center's equipment barn, adjacent to the Equine Therapy Center, where we ate and drank heartily to the great music of King Street Bluegrass and their Rosecroft Raceway Refugee Nancy Lisi.



All evening Sally Goswell was trucking loads of us out to the training track and explaining how this unique cooperative works for many of the most successful Thoroughbred trainers in the Mid-Atlantic. At the same time, Bruce Jackson was leading tours of his internationally acclaimed Equine Therapy Center where some of the world's most valuable horses are brought back to top form with the help of technology that looks

like it belongs on a spaceship.

The highlight of the evening was our presentation of the MHC Pumphrey Award for long-time volunteer service to our cause. It went to well-known trails advocate Naomi Manders. Naomi urged all of us to spend time in the trenches and never give up.

And somehow, we managed to successfully pull off our first silent auction while all of this was going on.



Thank you to Sally Goswell and Bruce Jackson for hosting us; also to Chris Bricker and Royce Herman for their hard work putting this event on; and to our administrator Margaret Rizzo of Mythic Landing Events, who went

the extra mile to make this event such a success. ■

## MHC Unwanted Horse Project Underway

For years, Maryland Horse Council members have wanted to do more for the many horses in our state whose owners are unable or unwilling to care for them. Auction prices have bottomed out, rescues are turning horses away, and even euthanasia and carcass disposal have become prohibitively expensive. There are no simple answers, but under the leadership of Vicki Carson, the Maryland Horse Council Unwanted Horse Project has been meeting throughout the summer. Subcommittees have formed in the areas of Education, Data and Information, Horse Welfare, Over-Breeding, The Economy, Support for Programs, Re-Training, Re-Homing, and Euthanasia.

Specific proposals will be presented at our Novem-

ber 16 meeting for approval, and then fundraising and volunteer recruitment will commence!

To learn more about the Unwanted Horse Project, contact Victoria Carson at [vcarson@carsonassociates.com](mailto:vcarson@carsonassociates.com).

## MHC Save The Horse Farms Campaign is Winning Already in Prince George's and Frederick

MHC members in Prince George's and Frederick Counties are leading the way in efforts to reform local zoning and land use laws to make them more "horse farm friendly." Staff and elected officials in both county governments have signed on in concept to major revisions that will soon go to county

*continued...*

*As always, special thanks go to our generous sponsors: MidAtlantic Farm Credit, B&D Builders, Southern States, The Equiry.*

*Maryland Horse Council membership is open to all associations, farms, businesses and individuals.*

*For more information, please contact MHC Association Manager Margaret Rizzo at [admin@mdhorsecouncil.org](mailto:admin@mdhorsecouncil.org) or visit [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org)*



supervisors for approval.

Gone will be the days when our indoor arena and barn building permits get held up because our lesson programs are considered "commercial", or our horse shows are some-

how not agricultural enough.

We are finding that winning changes in these local laws is not as difficult as one might expect. Local officials are impressed with the state "Horses as Agriculture" bill that we passed in the 2009 session and are generally eager to find ways of preserving open space. Prince George's county officials take it a step further and see horse farms as a way of increasing

property values. They want to become the "Middleburg of Maryland."

Without a local group of horse people willing to organize, however, changes in your county's policies are unlikely. Let us know that you'd like to host a meeting. We'll get you a list of MHC members in your county to invite, a guide to how to get started, and we'll even get you copies of your county's zoning laws relating to horses. You gotta play to win!

To learn more about the Save The Horse Farms Campaign, contact Stuart Pittman at dodonfarm@verizon.net or Valerie Ormond at valerieormond@aol.com.

### **Maryland Horse Council 2011 Legislator Support Statement**

The horse industry in Maryland employs 29,000 people, has an economic impact of \$1.6 billion, and maintains 685,000 acres of land in open space. I understand the value of this industry and will work with the Maryland Horse Council to preserve and promote it in my capacity as a state legislator in the 2011 General Assembly. I specifically support the following priorities. (check those that apply)

#### **1. Maintain Funding for Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.**

*Background:* This program has been used to preserve dozens of important horse farms for perpetuity. The Senate Finance Committee recommended zeroing out this funding in 2010 and the Governor's office stepped in to fully restore it, but another challenge to this program is expected in 2011. Preserving farms is good for the environment, good for the economy, and good for future generations' quality of life. A farm lost to development cannot be restored.

#### **2. Preserve Horse Racing's Share of Slots Revenue.**

*Background:* Maryland horse racing continues to hang on in anticipation of the purse enhancements and racetrack renewal funds that will allow it to compete with neighboring states. Any movement to override the will of voters in the 2008 referendum by reducing or taking away those anticipated funds will undoubtedly create a mass exodus of jobs and relocation of our farms across state borders. Track closures would literally put backstretch workers onto the streets or into homeless shelters. Maryland cannot afford to kill its racing industry.

#### **3. Save The Horse Farms by supporting efforts to reform local zoning and land use regulations to make them more horse farm friendly.**

*Background:* The General Assembly passed HB 955 in 2009 stating specifically that equestrian activities on horse farms are agricultural. Some counties have already responded by reviewing zoning and land use laws to ensure that efforts to improve horse farms are not blocked by inappropriate local laws. Members of the Maryland Horse Council are working to have county laws throughout the state reviewed and amended so that more horse farms can be saved at no expense to taxpayers. We need state legislators to lend their support to these efforts.

#### **4. Address the Problem of Unwanted Horses.**

*Background:* The horse industry has felt the pinch of the economic recession in recent years and one result has been an increase in the population of horses whose owners are unable or unwilling to care for them. The Maryland Horse Council Unwanted Horse Project is exploring ways to coordinate existing resources, provide additional resources, and educate horse owners about their options.



Maryland Horse Council members work together during an Unwanted Horse Project meeting under the leadership of Victoria Carson and professional facilitator Mary Sue McCarthy.

We put the results of that survey on our web site.

4. The Maryland Horse Council sent a letter to MJC owners MI Development, Inc. and Penn National Gaming, Inc. warning them of potential legal and political obstacles to their strategy and requesting that they come to Maryland to meet

with county and state officials. That letter was also put on our web site.

### **Slots and Horse Racing**

Various claims have been made recently about what position the Maryland Horse Council has taken with respect to the referendum on slots zoning before voters in Anne Arundel County. Here are the facts:

1. The Maryland Horse Council actively worked in support of the constitutional amendment approved by voters statewide in 2008 that authorized five locations for casinos in the state and established that 7% of all slots revenue would go to a Thoroughbred and Standardbred purse enhancement fund and 2.5% would go to a racetrack renewal fund.

2. The Maryland Horse Council worked actively in collaboration with the Maryland Jockey Club to delay a decision by the Anne Arundel County Council to zone for slots in the hopes that doing so would pressure the state VLT Location Commission to allow a bid for slots at Laurel Racetrack. That grassroots effort by our members produced what county staff described as a "deluge of phone calls" from horse people, but ultimately failed.

3. The Maryland Horse Council conducted a survey of its members and of licensed owners, trainers, and jockeys on a number of questions relating to racing, racetracks in Maryland and slots in Anne Arundel County.

5. The Maryland Horse Council Board of Directors DID NOT take a position in support of or in opposition to the MJC strategy of overturning the Anne Arundel County slots zoning law by referendum, although some of our individual members have argued vocally on both sides of the issue.

The decision to stay out of the campaign for or against slots zoning was a conscious one. Had there been unanimity of opinion within the racing industry we would most certainly have joined that side. The messages that we heard, however, were mixed.

If you are confused about what is at stake in this election, we encourage you to do your own research and ask the tough questions.

The Maryland Horse Council firmly believes that the Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing industries are critically important to the rest of the state's horse industry, and vice versa. We share vets, hay growers, feed suppliers, and even farms. Not all of the public officials of this state care about racing, about horses, or about farms. Only by supporting one another as horse people and speaking out as one voice to the legislators, even when we disagree on tactics, can we hope to maintain what we have and build on it.

### **Legislative Committee Presents 2011 Legislator Support Statement**

The MHC Legislative Committee is encouraging all of us to connect with our representatives before the start of the 2011 Maryland General Assembly. The document is a statement of support for some of our issues that legislators may choose to endorse. By asking them to sign on, you will have an opportunity to hear their views and to educate them. Don't be afraid. They work for YOU. The Legislator Support Statement can be viewed at left.

To learn more about the Legislative Committee, contact Amy Samman at aks@fdalaw.com.

*continued...*



FALL 2010

VISIT MDHORSECOUNCIL.ORG TO BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

### Board to Consider Establishing MHC PAC

The Executive Committee of the MHC will recommend to the Board of Directors at its November meeting that we establish a Maryland Horse Council Political Action Committee. MHC members have contributed to candidates in this election cycle, and some have even hosted fundraisers, but unlike most of the trade associations and advocacy groups that lobby in Annapolis, we have no way for people to contribute to candidates in the name of our issues or our organization. Political fundraising is part of the way power is wielded in our democracy, and we believe that our organization must step up and participate if we are to effectively represent the interests of our members.

This PAC will not exist in time to participate in this November's elections, but could be ready for 2011 and beyond. Once the PAC is formed it will work with our Board of Directors to establish procedures for candidate interviews and possible future endorsements. Political junkies, climb aboard!

### MHC Business Network Thanks Maryland Jockey Club

The MHC Business Network thanks the Maryland Jockey Club for hosting its September meeting at Laurel Park. They not only provided a great meeting space, but also a great lunch.

The topic of this meeting was bookkeeping, and like all of our Business Network discussions, the information shared was invaluable. Knowing that your peers are struggling creates a sense of calm. Hearing how a few of us have solved their problems creates a sense of hope. Don't miss our next meeting. Time, place, and topic are to be announced.

To learn more about the Business Network, contact Crystal Kimball at [crystalkimball@comcast.net](mailto:crystalkimball@comcast.net) or Jane Seigler at [jane@reddemeade.com](mailto:jane@reddemeade.com).

### Annual Meeting is on November 16th

Our Annual Meeting will be on November 16th at the Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen Street in Annapolis. During our meeting we will hear

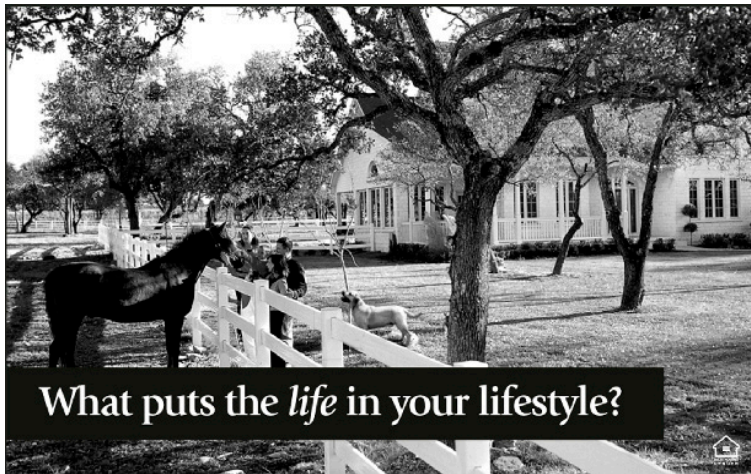
about the soon-to-be released census and other news from our friends at the Maryland Horse Industry Board. We will also discuss the action plan for our Unwanted Horse Project, an update on victories in the Save The Horse Farms campaign, and an assessment or two of what the Anne Arundel slots zoning referendum results mean to horse racing. We will also kick off our effort to sign legislators on to the Maryland Horse Council Legislator Support Statement, hopefully with the first lawmakers signing on at the meeting. We will then vote on whether to establish the Maryland Horse Council Political Action Committee. If the Board approves, we will announce the new chairman of our PAC. It is somebody we all know very well and trust to lead us into the stormy weather of politics.

### Membership Dues

If you are lucky enough to be reading this newsletter but are not yet a member of the Maryland Horse Council, please go to [mdhorsecouncil.org](http://mdhorsecouncil.org) and join now. Dues are \$40 for individuals, \$75 for farms, and \$100 for businesses. Being member of one of our association members is not enough. We need you! ■

 **SOUTHERN STATES**  
Farmer owned since 1923.  
[WWW.SOUTHERNSTATES.COM](http://WWW.SOUTHERNSTATES.COM)

# THE EQUERY



What puts the *life* in your lifestyle?

Do you want a nice house with an open kitchen? A great view from every window? Place for a horse, a dog, your kids?

We all have different hopes and dreams. If your life wishlist involves living in the country, you need an expert in rural financing. You need Farm Credit.

We've been financing your rural neighbors for over 90 years. Give us a call today—we'll help you add some life to your lifestyle.


 **FARM CREDIT**  
800.44CREDIT  
(800.442.7334)

I'd Rather Be Riding  
**MY HORSE**   
Request a FREE bumper sticker  
at [farmcreditequine.com](http://farmcreditequine.com)

"Serving all of rural America"


[farmcreditequine.com](http://farmcreditequine.com)

*Improving the  
Equestrian  
Experience*



**Horse Barns • Riding Arenas**  
Timber Frames • Hay Barns

Using a combination of premium quality materials, professional service, skilled craftsmanship, and innovative engineering and design, B & T Builders will deliver a building that improves your equestrian experience!



11 N. Decker Rd., Trappe, MD  
Phone 717-687-0292

Visit Our Gallery at [www.ourcustombarnbuilding.com](http://www.ourcustombarnbuilding.com)