



President's Letter

Jane Seigler



This is my third Annual Report as President of MHC. I continue to be amazed and impressed by how far this great organization has come, and how much we Maryland equestrians, working together as a unified interest group, have accomplished.

Elsewhere in this report is detailed information about the activities of our Legislative Committee, Business Network, Farm Stewardship Committee, Committee to Support Racing, Trails and Greenways Committee, Political Action Committee, and our related organization, The Maryland Fund for Horses. I think you will be impressed.

Although we are an organization of serious substance, with many significant initiatives and accomplishments that will be discussed below, we also know how to have fun! Our signature social event is the Annual MHC BBQ. This was our 9th Annual BBQ, and this event has truly been getting bigger and better every year. Held at the beautiful Caves Farm in Owings Mill, the BBQ was a big success. We are already working on next year's BBQ, which will be our 10th! We also enjoyed a fabulous Day at the Races at Pimlico in June, and an Evening at the Races at Rosecroft in November.

I look forward to more important work and exciting activities in the coming year!

Membership

There is always room for growth in membership. As we "dialogue" with our elected representatives and regulators, there is strength in numbers. Even if you belong to a club or association that is a member of MHC, we need your individual membership now! See elsewhere in this report for our membership application, or go online to mdhorsecouncil.org. We offer 3- and 5- year discounted prepaid memberships, in addition to the 1 year and lifetime options. And if you join as an individual member, you can earn cash rebates for your member organization - contact admin@mdhorsecouncil.org for more info.

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Association	26	40	42	48
Business	62	67	64	58
Farm	96	101	85	82
Charity/ Foundation	n/a	9	13	10
Individual	122	178	195	179
Youth	4	3	4	3
	310	398	403	380

Meeting Attendance

Our Quarterly Board of Directors meetings typically draw 75 - 100 Directors and guests. This is a good place to discuss a little Horse Council 101: The Horse Council is an all volunteer organization, assisted in its work by a contract with an outside administrative firm (Mythic Landing Enterprises). The MHC membership consists of associations (e.g., breed, interest and discipline groups, clubs, etc.), farms, businesses, charities/foundations, and individuals. The policy of the Maryland-Horse Council is set by its Board of Directors, which meets four times a year in January, May, August and November.

The Board of Directors is formed as follows: each association that is a member designates a representative to sit on the Board; in addition, farm, business, charity/foundation and individual membership categories each elect directors-at-large to represent their membership category - one director-at-large for every 25 or fewer members in each category. The policy decisions of the Board, and the day-to-day business of the organization, are overseen by the Executive Committee: the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five additional members, elected by the Board. The Executive Committee meets monthly on the last Tuesday of the month.

By-laws

This year, the By-laws were amended to add the following language to the description of the President's duties: "The President shall be authorized to fill any vacancy on the Executive Committee that occurs outside the regular election cycle, with the approval of the remaining members of the Executive Committee."

Administration

The website was completely revamped this year, with an eye to making it more interactive, and to improving our database and messaging capabilities. Although we are still working out some kinks, we are looking forward to using this new tool to improve our membership service and communication.

Committee and Affiliated Organization Reports Legislative and Regulatory

Often exciting and always exhausting, the 2015 legislative session was a particularly rewarding one for MHC. Aided by the outstanding leadership and guidance of our lobbyist, Frank Boston, and his superb Annapolis team, we were successful in virtually all our legislative initiatives.

During the course of the 3-month session, MHC closely monitored 42 bills and resolutions that could have an effect on horse people, their farms, businesses and even their pets. We testified at numerous hearings, wrote and submitted written testimony on several bills, and took formal positions without testimony on many others. We traveled to Annapolis over and over again to meet with key legislators and county delegations. Huge thanks are owed to the dedicated MHC members who disrupted their daily lives and schedules to come to Annapolis whenever called upon, and who helped organize our grass roots efforts. Special thanks to the many of you who made phone calls, wrote emails and otherwise lobbied your representatives to support our causes. Your persistent and effective efforts did not go unnoticed in the halls of the Legislature, as we were often greeted by legislators with: "I know, I know - I've heard from your people!"

Here are some of the things we worked on:
We worked closely with the ASPCA and other stakeholders in crafting amendments to a bill that would authorize a court to order a defendant convicted of animal cruelty, as a condition of sentencing, to pay, in addition to any other fines and costs, all reasonable costs incurred in removing, housing, treating, or euthanizing an animal confiscated from the defendant, and establishing other procedural requirements. (SB393/HB362). The House bill contained caps on the amount a defendant can be required to pay, and set requirements for the notice that must be given to a person when his animals are confiscated; the Senate version did not include these elements. Unfortunately, these differences between the House and Senate versions, both of which passed both chambers, were unresolved by the Conference Committee before time ran out in the session. Therefore, the bill did not pass.

As in recent years, a big part of our efforts was devoted to stopping the advance of Sunday hunting. Prior to 2002, no hunting on Sundays was the law of the land throughout the state of Maryland, meaning that Sundays were preserved as a day of "quiet enjoyment" of the outdoors for others: horseback riders, hikers, bird-watchers, etc. Beginning in 2002, a number of attempts were made in the Legislature to open Sundays to hunting on a statewide basis. When these statewide bills were unsuccessful, some county groups began introducing legislation to allow Sunday hunting in individual counties. MHC has begun to fight back in earnest against this "county courtesy" tactic, and we have had some successes.

Last year we were successful in Anne Arundel (although we were unsuccessful in blocking a bill that allowed expansion in Allegany, Frederick, Garrett and Washington Counties). This year, we successfully blocked expanded Sunday hunting in Baltimore (HB18/SB378), Calvert and Dorchester (HB285/SB117), Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties (HB411), Harford (HB655), as well as a statewide bill (HB414). We also worked successfully with Senate leadership in securing the repeal of a bill passed last year that added 3 months, including Sundays, to the hunting season in Charles and St. Mary's Counties (SB68).

The Department of Natural Resources has long taken the position that recreational hunting, including Sundays, is their most effective tool in controlling the burgeoning white-tail deer population. White-tail deer population. However, as anyone who owns a farm or garden can attest, the deer population continues to grow exponentially in most areas of the state, causing huge losses to crops, landscapes and forests, as well as increasing incidence of Lyme disease and vehicle collisions.

This year, MHC, in collaboration with the Maryland Farm Bureau, introduced a bill (SB748) that proposed a more effective solution, allowing the sale of venison from deer taken under crop damage permits issued to farmers who can demonstrate deer damage to their crops. We crafted this bill as a pilot program, and because it represents a unique approach. (Maryland would be the first state to allow the commercial sale of wild venison, although other states are considering it). We did not expect passage this year. Nevertheless, we are pleased with the discussion that the bill provoked, and will take these new ideas and suggestions into account as we work on a new version to be introduced next year. Con-

sistent with our support of farmers in their fight against deer damage, we also supported a bill that would allow the use of rifles under crop damage permits in Frederick County (SB844). The bill passed.

We submitted written testimony expressing concerns about a bill (HB 151) that would prohibit a person from buying, selling, transporting, or offering or receiving for sale or transportation any equine or equine carcass or the meat of any equine if the person knows or reasonably should know that the equine, carcass or meat will be used for human consumption. MHC strongly supports education efforts for the care and welfare of horses, and supports the development of an infrastructure for humane end-of-life options for horses. However, we were not convinced that this bill, as written, was the best solution at the present time for the problem of unwanted horses and the abuse and neglect they may suffer, especially considering that, as the premise of the bill was based on knowledge and intent at the time of a transaction, it would seem that enforcement of its provisions would be difficult, if not impossible. The bill did not pass. Over the summer, MHC initiated a dialogue with its members about support for the federal SAFE (Safeguard American Food Exports) Act. This proposed federal legislation would prohibit the sale and transport of equines or equine parts for human consumption. MHC surveyed its members and following a formal vote of the Board of Directors, MHC voted to support the bill and adopted a formal resolution. The resolution states MHC will "1) undertake an effort to encourage horse owners to take responsibility for placement or euthanasia of their unwanted horses, and 2) seek to create a system to evaluate and place or humanely euthanize horses that are unwanted, abandoned or neglected. then called for a formal vote of the Board of Directors on whether MHC should support this proposed legisla-

tion. The results of that formal vote will be announced at the November Quarterly meeting.

Here are some other bills that we took positions on:
HB153 - Would prohibit leaving a dog restrained and unattended for longer than 15 minutes when a hazardous weather warning is in effect or for longer than 1 hour when the temperature is below 33 degrees or above 99 degrees. Opposed; did not pass. We opposed this and other similar bills (HB956; SB26) because they did not take into account their application to pets who live on farms, or kenneled Foxhounds. These bills did not pass.

HB536/SB345 - Would give tax benefit for the purchase of livestock manure loading and hauling equipment. Supported; did not pass.

HB928 - Would have repealed the sales tax exemption for the purchase of agricultural inputs. Opposed; did not pass.

HB946 - Would make all noncompete and conflict of interest provisions in employment contracts null and void. Opposed; did not pass.

HJ5/SJ5 - Resolution urging Maryland Congressional Delegation to work with Congress and Department of Interior to extend goose and duck hunting season through February. Opposed; did not pass.

If you have any questions about any of these bills, please let us know. You can get full information about any of them, including their full texts, any amendments, which legislators voted for/against, etc. by going to mgaleg.maryland.gov and typing in the bill number in the "Find legislation by number" box at the top of the home page.

At the conclusion of the legislative Session, the Legislative Committee voted to present our 2015

Legislative Leadership Award to Sen. Joan Carter Conway, for her continued support of our positions, and to present Citations of Appreciation to Del. Barbara Frush, Del. Stephen Lafayette, Sen. Cheryl Kagan, Sen. Ronald Young, Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Sen. Paul Pinsky, Sen. Jim Rosapepe and Sen. Karen Montgomery.

Finally, MHC, in conjunction with the Maryland Horse Industry Board hosted our very first Maryland Horse Industry Day in Annapolis on March 23, 2015. Numerous promotional events, including videotaped interviews with some of Maryland's horse industry leaders that appeared on centermaryland.com, newspaper coverage, MHC visits to some county delegations, etc. preceded a terrific happy hour for legislators at the Calvert House in Annapolis.

Although it was very late in the session and the legislators' schedules were tight, we had a great turnout of Maryland Senators, Delegates, Cabinet Secretaries and other Hogan Administration officials and horse industry leaders from across the entire spectrum of our diverse industry - all coming together to make the point that Maryland's horse industry is wide, deep and strong.

In June, the Legislative Committee met to discuss issues and plan strategy for the 2016 session, and developed a number of ideas for initiatives on Sunday hunting, animal welfare, amendments to the stable licensing bill and a "horse industry license plate" as a new funding mechanism for the MHC. Work on these ideas continues.

County Forums and County Issues

We are still looking for people willing to moderate our county pages on our website. If you would be interested in helping out, contact us at admin@mdhorsecouncil.org.

In addition, our most successful defense against the "county courtesy" bills discussed in the Legislative Committee report, above, is vigilance at the county level itself. When county officials who are considering legislative initiatives hear from their constituents that a proposal is unpopular, that will often be the end of it. If you would be willing to monitor the agenda of your County Council, Commission or other governing body, to alert your fellow equestrians about measures that might affect them, please let us know. It will only take a few minutes of your time to check your county's website periodically and it could make a big difference. If you can help, please contact admin@mdhorsecouncil.org.

Business Network

Crystal Kimball

Made in Maryland Sold Worldwide *Getting your great product developed, manufactured & distributed!*

Maryland has long been the incubator for innovative products for the equestrian industry. Early on, Maryland was the home of one of the first, and eventually, largest manufacturers and distributors of equestrian products: Foxwood. There are plenty of other names familiar to the current generations of equestrians, including but not limited to Cosequin, Victory Racing Plates, Tappeta Footing, Nunn Finer, County Saddlery - and more.

Everyone knows somebody who has been tinkering in their kitchen with new recipes for ointments or supplements, or who had been fiddling away in the workshop on some new gizmo or widget. Sometimes these ideas take off and make their inventors or owners a lot of money, or maybe just a little extra revenue

stream - something with which to defray the horse expenses. Over two dozen of these budding entrepreneurs attended the "Maryland-Made • Sold Worldwide" Business Seminar & Network, a three-part series.

Session I

In the first session, attendees received a crash course in how the "back end" of the industry works. Leading this seminar was Hope Birsh, owner of Maryland Saddlery. Hope, has dabbled in wholesaling herself. Hope is the current president of the American Equestrian Trade Association, which-along with its partner, Hopper Expositions) hosts a semi-annual trade show for retailers. Twice a year, owners of and buyers for all the tack shops and equestrian-related stores east of the Mississippi River migrate to the Pennsylvania trade show to meet with manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors to stock their stores. This is where inventors and manufacturers can show off their new products or explain the benefits of improvements to established products.

For the MHC Seminar attendees, Hope explained how the manufacturer-wholesaler-distributor-retailer relationship works. Attendees learned that it is rare for a retailer to just purchase a product from a random inventor or rep who walks into their store. She explained how and why retailers prefer to work through established distributors and/or manufacturers, as these entities are going to help them sell the product, by marketing, product launches, etc. How a manufacturer prices product for wholesale versus retail was also explored, with Hope explaining concepts such as "keystoning."

Session II

For the next seminar, attendees were inspired by local success stories.

Lambert Cissel: A Howard County horseman and grower of turfgrass

and ornamental shade trees, W. Lambert Cissel Jr. invented (and subsequently patented) the Treegator® as a way to assist with summer digging and watering for his family's wholesale nursery in Woodbine. Soon after, knowledge of its stress reducing and time saving benefits created demand from contractors and nurseries in the area, and a company was born. By 1991 the Treegator had a market. Today the Treegator is sold in Home Depot, Sears, amazon.com and other fine retailers.

Meanwhile, Lambert continues to tinker in his workshop, constantly inventing new products, including useful ones for riders and horse handlers – some of which he showed off to the seminar attendees.

During the session, Lambert described what he went through to develop the Treegator, explaining how he had wet plastic bags hanging and dripping everywhere (making his wife nuts) as he tinkered with different types of material and stitching. He explained how he first used his Treegators just for his own business, but how soon his clients, as well as his competitors, were interested in them, and how that eventually evolved into a nationwide business.

Ellie Trueman: As the principal behind Trueman Communications Group for over 20 years, Ellie's client list has included Ariat, Dover Saddlery, Hermes, Nutramax Labs (Cosequin), British Equestrian Trade Association, UC Davis School of Vet Med, Jaguar, and The New York Times. Trueman Communications designed Ariat's corporate launch and handled their marketing/PR for their first five years, as well as outlining Ariat's 15-year marketing vision. Ellie has also designed and managed numerous product launches for Dover, Nutramax Labs, Hermes, and State Line Tack.

Ellie is also an inventor, designer and manufacturer, holding trademarks and patents for products including a few in the equestrian industry. She recently launched a popular new product, "Kool Kurtains," a technologically-advanced environmental screening product designed to deflect heat and to help cool and reduce the bugs in run-in sheds, barns, stalls and horse trailers. Kool Kurtains is now being sold by retailers such as Dover Saddlery, Stateline Tack, Riding Warehouse and Horse.com

Ellie shared with attendees the long and drawn out process to find just the right fabric for the curtains and the challenge of finding stitchers that would ensure the quality required at the necessary price point. Many of the seminar attendees were encouraged by her story about how, regardless of the fact that she is a long time friend and colleague of Steve Day, owner of Dover Saddlery, this was no automatic "in" with Dover... how it took her years and numerous business plan pitches before Dover agreed to test the product in some online sales. Today, after much work on Ellie's part, the Dover catalogue does carry her Kool Kurtains.

John Nunn: Most local horse people know Cecil County resident John Nunn as the owner of eventing retailer Bit of Britain. What they don't know is that John is an indefatigable inventor and the founder of the manufacturing, wholesale and distribution company Nunn Finer Products. NFP distributes to over 500 retailers in the U.S. and to six countries abroad. John has designed over 40 different bridles, breastplates, training aids, and stirrup leathers, as well as many other products now common in many barns and tack rooms, including (but not limited to) the Nunn Finer No Slip Pad, The Safety Spin, Stifle Ice Boots, Rubber Spur Straps, Rubber Keepers, Rubber Plugs (for stud holes), Tack Up Grip

Spray, Gag Hanger, and many more.

John also talked about the various options available for inventors to get their products to market, to get a return on their investment, and – hopefully – to produce steady income.

Using examples of products he invented (such as his first, the No Slip Pad, and the years it took to get the recipe for the rubber just right, and how in the beginning he perforated and packaged every pad himself), John discussed the challenges of pricing and distributing as the owner and inventor.

But, as he explained to attendees, hawking one's product oneself (either directly to retailers or directly to the consumer) is not the only option.

Inventors can license their products to other manufacturers, and then enjoy a steady revenue stream from that, or they can sell their licenses to other manufacturers and receive an upfront, one time fee – and then be done. John talked about another of his products, The Nunn Finer Pill Crusher, which he originally designed for horse pills, but Merck liked the product so much that they purchased from John the rights to produce and sell a version for human pills.

He also talked about products he has acquired, which were invented by folks just like some in the room. Some of these products include (but are not limited to) The Denise Rath Gag Cheek Pieces, The DermaFas Company, and The Moss Saddle Soap Company. Since acquisition, John has added new products to the DermaFas line and tripled sales in three years, and has added 15 new products to the Moss line. Most of the companies acquired by NFP are purchased with little cash down but with long-term royalty agreements,

ensuring that inventors do see a long-term return on these products.

Session III

While Sessions I and II focused on the more traditional methods of distribution (via wholesalers/distributors to retailers, with inventors/manufacturers eventually having very little to do with the end user), Session III focused on those inventors and manufacturers that choose to sell direct-to-consumer.

Gene Freeze: Now a saddle designer and owner of the international manufacturing firm, County Saddlery, Inc., Marylander Gene Freeze began his professional equestrian career as an event rider and farrier, eventually shoeing for horses competing in the Olympics, World Championships, Pan Am Games, and many other international events. His knowledge about natural and proper balance led to him becoming a contributing editor for EQUUS – but it also led in another perhaps unexpected direction: the rider's balance on the horse via the saddle – and this led to County Saddlery, Inc., which is headquartered in Howard County, Maryland.

Gene has now designed saddles for many of the world's leading riders in all three Olympic disciplines, including triple Gold Medalist, Edward Gal of the Netherlands, and U.S. Olympian Margie Engle, ten-time American Grand Prix Association Rider of the Year. Gene is a member of the British Society of Master Saddlers and is the current President and Chief Saddle Fitting Instructor of the Master Saddlers Association in the U.S. Gene also contributes to leading magazines and lectures internationally on saddle design and fitting. He was invited by the University of Zurich to lecture at the Swiss Veterinary Conference to over 300 veterinarians and riders from all over Europe.

Gene has taken a somewhat different approach to the sale and distribution of his saddles. Instead

of wholesaling saddles to retailers, he sells direct to the consumer. Attendees learned why he decided to sell direct-to-consumer (rather than retailer) and what the challenges are with this process, how it has meant that his manufacturing business has to be internally structured quite differently than that of a standard saddle-maker business. He discussed the pros and cons of this approach.

Eileen Johnson: Eileen Johnson has more of a hybrid approach to her products, as she sells to retailers as well as direct-to-the-consumer.

Art and technical design have always been a part of Eileen Johnson's life, whose father was a naval architect and mother a gifted artist. She began designing when she was six, and discovered horses a few years later – and both have been her life since. As a teen, Eileen began to dabble in metal work and jewelry design, while after school one could always find Eileen riding horses or at the stables caring for them. At the University of Kentucky, her metal work led her to the field of Dental Technology. As a Dental Laboratory business owner, she was able to successfully meet the needs of her clients and continue to dabble in her jewelry creations.

After 25 years in dental technology, Eileen retired and pursued her other passion: horses, and another dream. Eileen had a vision for a new business: using durable metals (as found in dental work) and featuring anatomically correct, elegantly executed 3-dimensional equestrian jewelry.

For seminar goers, Eileen discussed the challenges of balancing the dual wholesale and retail sales models, how she develops price points for each (so that she is not competing with her retailers or under-pricing them) and how she strives to be able to create custom pieces for her personal clientele while at the same time developing standard versions

that can be produced in quantity for her retail clients.

Stuart J. Friedman, Patent & Trademark Attorney: The first words out of Stuart's mouth to the seminar attendees were, "Do NOT tell us about your great idea!"

Stuart Friedman specializes in patent, trademark, trade dress and trade secret law. His practice includes preparing and prosecuting U.S. and foreign patent applications; counseling clients regarding the selection, adoption, use and worldwide acquisition of trade and service mark rights, including all phases of trade and service mark preparation and prosecution; patent and trademark validity and infringement counseling; formulating, negotiating and implementing intellectual property licensing and technology transfer programs, technology acquisitions and joint ventures. He has conducted jury and non-jury patent and trademark infringement litigations, has prepared and argued patent and trademark appeals before U.S. Courts of Appeals, has testified as a patent expert in patent infringement litigation and has extensive experience in opposition and cancellation proceedings before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

He discussed the pitfalls of developing and marketing new ideas without losing control and ownership of them.

All three of the seminars in this series were well attended and enthusiastically received by the attendees.

Farm Stewardship Committee

Jane Thery

The Farm Stewardship Committee continued to have great success in promoting the understanding that well managed horse farms are hugely beneficial to the environment, as well as an important economic boost to the Maryland economy.

The Committee held several meetings throughout the year. The first was at Hilltop Farm in Colora, in May. Natalie DiBerardini, the manager at Hilltop Farm, graciously welcomed our group in the visitors lounge overlooking their magnificent indoor arena. Gerald Talbert, the program director for the Farm Stewardship Assessment and Certification Program (FSCAP), gave us an update on the program's progress. They recently signed up the one hundredth Maryland farm into the program. Twenty-six horse farms are in the program now. In addition to recognition as a quality managed farm, the FSCAP members receive the benefit of being given priority to participate in Farm Stewardship cost sharing programs such as funding for planting pollinator habitats.

The group discussed the status of the agriculture certainty program and the nutrient trading program and concluded that neither of these two programs seems to be a good fit for our horse farms. Jane Seigler, President of the Maryland Horse Council, reported that there were no significant legislative issues for farm stewardship out of the recent Maryland legislative session. However, she suggested meeting the officials in the new administration who are managing agricultural issues for the state.

One important conclusion of the meeting was that the demand for upgrading horse farms' environmental stewardship through the FSCAP program is rising, putting increased demands on the Soil Conservation District officials in charge of assisting with nutrient management plans and soil conservation plans. We discussed options for the Maryland Horse Council to raise this issue in the Maryland legislature to promote more resources for equine specialists in the soil conservation districts.

The next farm Stewardship Committee meeting was at Persimmon Tree Farm in Westminster and hosted by Carolyn Krome. The focus of the

meeting was a review of cost sharing programs available for advanced farm stewardship initiatives such as improving wildlife and pollinator habitat.

The Fall meeting was at Waredaca Farm. About 20 of us gathered for the meeting with a focus on well-managed pastures and the health benefits to horses of access to grazing and roaming space. Waredaca Farm owner Robert Butts described how he mows and fertilizes his fields to keep them healthy for his school horses and boarders. The school horses live outside all year round and have plenty of winter coat, run ins and tree lines to protect them from the elements. They stay happier and healthier with this outdoor living. Jane Seigler, President of the Maryland Horse Council, encouraged participants to come to the Maryland Horse Council annual meeting in Annapolis and briefly discussed the agenda for that meeting.

Gerald Talbert, Project Manager for the Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program (FSCAP) described the program and the success in signing up horse farms. The group suggested that one way to bring more Thoroughbred breeding farms into the program is to include the program flyer in the VIP packets for the Maryland Million horse racing event at Laurel Racetrack. We also discussed how to bring the Maryland Horse Industry Board on as a partner, given their scarce resources. The Maryland Horse Industry Board could promote the program via their regular contacts with the 600 licensed stables. A key partner in this program are the Soil Conservation District Equine Specialists. There are four Equine Specialists in Maryland. The group discussed ways to show support for keeping these positions filled and their offices financed to provide technical assistance to our horse farms.

Amy Burk, Director of Equine Stud-

ies at the University of Maryland, College Park, described on-going research on grasses and their carbohydrate and sugar contents. Her student research team collects grasses, manure and blood samples of grazing horses over full 24-hour periods to identify fluctuations in nutrients and nutrient digestion. She also discussed research findings on horse farm management. The results are that most horse farms have few problems with erosion and are keeping up their pastures through good management. Some shortfalls are lack of gutters and downspouts to manage roof water run off, manure storage and buffer space between horse fields and streams or ponds. Additional use of better footing around gates and barn entrances would also help keep high-transit areas from getting cut up and muddy.

The group received a special tour of the Waredaca Brewing Company's beer production facilities. The micro-brew operation opened in December, using hops grown on the farm. The beer garden overlooks the horse pastures.

Committee to Support Racing

In addition to organizing two very successful outings to the Standardbred and Thoroughbred tracks, MHC also supported the new Maryland Pride Day at Laurel Park in August: a day of races dedicated to celebrating Maryland-bred and Maryland-sired horses. This will become an annual event.

Trails and Greenways Committee

Ron MacNab
Patuxent State Park

A study and plan was submitted by park management and a coalition of user groups to build a series of sustainable loop trails. The trails will be in the western part of the park from Browns Church Road to Mullinix Mill Road. "The conceptual trail system provides roughly 25 miles of trails

(similar to the amount currently present), but drastically reduces the number of trail junctions, the mileage of trails located in floodplains, and crossings of the Patuxent River and its tributaries. In a more sustainable layout, the trail system will have much longer loops that depend on trail users traveling from "road-to-road" to complete loops. Where terrain allows, especially near trailhead locations, smaller loops have been conceptualized that provide options for shorter recreation opportunities and/or are more suitable for family-focused and beginner excursions.

The plan is currently going through bureaucratic channels but is expected to be approved by Spring 2016. Work will begin soon after approval. The project is expected to take several years and will largely be done by volunteers from MORE, a mountain bike association, and some equestrians.

Agricultural History Farm Park

Several trails at Agricultural History Farm Park have been realigned to more sustainable locations. Bridges were installed at creek crossings.

Rachel Carson Park

Several trails at Rachel Carson Park were realigned to more sustainable locations. The new trails are a considerable improvement from some of the areas, which had become washed out.

Black Hills Regional Park

Under the sponsorship of MORE and the approval of Montgomery Parks, volunteers are developing multi-use trails in the western portion of Black Hill Regional Park. This is the area west of Route 121.

MHIB Maryland Equestrian Trail Map

The Maryland Horse Industry Board is issuing a trails brochure for Maryland. The brochure will list the location of public equestrian trails, trail ride stables and places to camp with horses in Maryland. The brochure should be of great

benefit to those looking for trail riding opportunities.

Horse Council PAC

Win Hayward

The Horse Council PAC was authorized by the Maryland Horse Council (MHC) Board and created in 2011. It is registered with the State Board of Elections and as a PAC is affiliated with the MHC.

The idea of a PAC for the MHC came out of the 2009 Horse Industry Forum. Working in concert with the Legislative and Executive Committees of the MHC, the PAC provides another means to demonstrate the strength and unity of the Maryland horse industry to Maryland elected officials.

2015 has been a year of consolidation and rebuilding for the PAC. Because 2014 was a major election year, with high levels of donations to both strategically key and horse-friendly legislators, the PAC began the year with limited funds. Through the generosity of MHC members as well as some key outside supporters, the PAC raised over \$3,500. Thanks to all who contributed.

The Board, in consultation with the Legislative Committee of the MHC, will meet in November to decide on the 2015 slate of contributions.

In June, per the by-laws, 2 of the at-large members of the board of directors retired from the board to be replaced by two new members during the year. The current officer group is: Stuart Pittman, Chair, Win Hayward, Treasurer; Christy Clagett, Rod Cameron, Royce Herman, and Erica Lancaster are the at-large members.

Maryland Fund for Horses

Victoria Carson

Maryland Fund For Horses achieved one of its primary goals in 2015 – establishing a financial aid program for horse owners needing help with the cost of

necessary health care for their equines. The program is called "Horse Bucks." MFFH raised money throughout the spring and summer in preparation for the launch of Horse Bucks this fall. Part of the launch was an inaugural Fall gelding initiative. Instead of holding a centralized gelding clinic (as has been done in the past), for a period of 45 days, MFFH offered up to \$250 toward the cost of gelding any colt or stallion residing in Maryland. MFFH recruited Maryland equine veterinarians to assist with verifying that the horse was healthy, the castration would be routine, and the owner needed financial assistance. Upon receiving an application with the veterinarian's certification, payments were made directly to the veterinarian upon presentation of an invoice for a successful castration. The program is still in progress, winding up at the end of November. MFFH believes the idea of providing assistance for castrations done at home, rather than in a centralized location has many advantages – including eliminating travel stress for horse and owner, fewer biosecurity risks, and one veterinarian involved in assessment, procedure and follow-up. The Horse Bucks program operates throughout the year, providing assistance with necessary health care to owners who want to do the right thing for their horses but are struggling with the cost. So far, MFFH Horse Bucks recipients include two mature stallions and a young colt who received funding toward castrations, a pony who received eye surgery, new referrals from Animal Control organizations and veterinarians for other surgical procedures needed for horses to lead a healthy and useful life, and horses who need end-of-life compassionate euthanasia. More information about Horse Bucks and how to apply for assistance can be found on the MFFH website at www.mdfundforhorses.org and on the MFFH Facebook page.

The Horse Bucks program won a grant from the ASPCA, but the majority of support comes from individual donors. MFFH will be participating in #GivingTuesday, a nationwide day of online charitable giving on December 1, 2015. All gifts and individual and corporate matching donations received on #GivingTuesday will be used for the Horse Bucks program. Donations can be made directly from the MFFH website and Facebook pages. To discuss an ongoing gift, matching gift or sponsorship for one of our programs, please contact mdfundforhorses@gmail.com.

Maryland Fund For Horses also provides educational programs for horse owners everywhere about responsible horse ownership:

- An all-new second edition of the successful "Safe & Sound" Resource Guide for New and Prospective Horse Owners is underway for publication in the Spring.
- The successful Evening Webinar Series has been renewed for 2016. The webinars cover a wide range of topics on responsible horse owner-

ship. Visit the Maryland Fund For Horses website for a complete library of recorded webinar topics at www.mdfundforhorses.org/cms/resources-horse-owners. Recent webinars include:

- How to deal with equine health emergencies – when to call the vet and what to do until the vet arrives.
- How to find the right hay for your horse and determine hay quality, and
- Best practices for rescuing horses from out-of-state and current diseases of concern (presented by the Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health Section).

Maryland Fund For Horses is a 501(c)(3) public charity and an all-volunteer organization. 90% of funds raised go directly toward education and equine welfare programs. Because MFFH has no paid staff, the best way to get involved is to contact MFFH at volunteer@mdfundforhorses.org.

Maryland Horse Industry Board

MHC has one formal representative (currently Dorothy Troutman) on the

MD Horse Industry Board, but a majority of the MHIB board members are also active members of the MHC. Funding for MHIB has been a major MHC legislative priority in past years and will continue to be in the future as MHIB pursues our common vision of promoting the horse industry to the public in Maryland. Our November Annual Meeting is also a joint meeting with MHIB.

American Horse Council/Coalition of State Horse Councils

MHC has continued its membership in and active involvement with the American Horse Council and the affiliated Coalition of State Horse Councils. Vicki Carson continues to be our liaison with CSHC.

Farm Bureau

MHC has continued its membership in and involvement with the MD Farm Bureau. Our Legislative committee works closely with the Farm Bureau on many issues, including deer herd management strategies.

Thanks to our Sponsors



FARM CREDIT



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MHC: Who We Are

Association Members

Carroll County Equestrian Council
 Carrollton Hounds
 Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club
 Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Assn.
 Equine Rescue & Rehabilitation Inc.
 Fair Hill International Inc.
 Frederick County Equine Alliance
 Freedom Hill Horse Rescue
 Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding
 Goshen Hounds
 Gunpowder Falls Volunteer Mounted Patrol
 Hopewell Farm
 Howard County Farm Bureau Inc.
 Howard County Horse Shows Assoc.
 Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds
 Humane Society of Carroll County

League of Maryland Horsemen
 Marlborough Hunt Club
 Maryland 4-H Program
 Maryland Association for Wildlife Conservation (MAWC)
 Maryland Combined Training Assn.
 Maryland Draft Horse & Mule Assn.
 Maryland Equestrian Club
 Maryland Equestrian Foundation/ Rosaryville Conservancy
 Maryland Farriers Association
 Maryland High School Rodeo Association
 Maryland Horse Breeders Assn.
 Maryland Horse Shows Association
 Maryland Jockey Club
 Maryland Standardbred Breeders Assoc.
 Maryland Steeplechase Association
 Maryland Thoroughbred Horseman's

Association
 MD Assn. of Equine Practitioners
 MD State Quarter Horse Assn.
 Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Assn.
 My Lady's Manor Driving Club
 New Market Middletown Valley Hounds
 Plantation Walking Horse Club of MD
 Potomac Hunt Club
 Potomac Valley Dressage Assoc Inc
 Preserve Harness Racing at Rosecroft
 Rural Maryland Council
 The Humane Society of the U.S.
 TROT - Trail Riders of Today
 Tuckahoe Equestrian Center
 Washington International Horse Show
 Wicomico Hunt Club
 WoW! Graphic Designs

Business Members

Agape Pet Services
 Alicia Laughlin
 Associations Underwriters & Ziplow Horse Ins.
 Atelier West
 AXA - Advisors
 B & D Builders
 Back In Motion
 Bit of Britain
 Capitol Polo Club
 Christmas Insurance
 Damascus Equine Associates
 DVM Equine Practice, LLC
 Electronic Billing & Customer Support
 Equestrian Promotions Inc. dba Horse World Expo
 Equine Network
 Equine Veterinary Services
 F.I.C.S. of Maryland Inc.
 Fair Hill Training Center
 Farm and Equine Business Services LLC

Farm and Equine Services
 Farm Credit
 Farmers Cooperative Assoc.
 Favre Equine Dentistry
 Friday's Horse Equine Giftware
 Friendship Equine Dental Services
 Gaithersburg Equip. Co. & Frederick Equip. Co.
 Gaits of Hope
 H.R. Collins & Co Trailer Sales & Repairs
 Hands on Horses LLC
 J. David Mullinix & Sons
 J.B. Services Inc.
 Keene Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram
 Kelley Rogers Racing LLC
 Kingstown Farm Home and Garden Inc.
 Lost Diamond Farm LLC
 Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Ctr
 Mythic Landing Enterprises
 Nutramax Laboratories Inc.
 Old Line Advertising

Pesch Enterprises / Forever Farm
 Prince George's Racing Ventures LLC
 R&D Cross of Upper Marlboro
 Rigidply Rafters
 State Farm Insurance
 The Equiry
 The Maryland Horse & Pony Show Inc
 The Piedmont Group
 Tischer Porsche
 TJM Custom Builder
 TORO Turf Equipment & Supply
 Trevi Manor LLC.
 Turf Center Inc./Southern States
 Two Percent LLLC dba Bare Bites
 Two Time Tack
 U.S. Pony Racing
 Veteran Writing Services
 Windsong Veterinary Service, LLC
 Wolfe Services/Barn-1, LLC

Charity Members

Brave HEART Program Inc.
 Calleva Horse Adventure Program
 City Ranch, Inc
 Days End Farm Horse Rescue Inc.

Equestrian Partners in Conservation (EPIC)
 Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Program
 Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue Society Ltd.

Graham Equestrian Center Inc.
 Greystone Equine Rescue & Rehabilitation
 Horsemen Helping Horses
 Maryland Therapeutic Riding Inc.

Farm Members

A Bit Better Farm LLC
 A Moment in Time Farm
 Amazing Grace Equestrian Center
 Belle Cote Farm
 Bittersweet Hill Farm
 Bloomsbury Forge
 Bread & Butter Farm
 Brooke Grove Farm
 Burning Benjamins LLC
 Burrages End Stables LLC
 Burrows Farm
 By Chance Farm LLC
 Celebration Farm, LLC
 Chanceland Farm Inc.
 Cloverland North Farm
 Columbia Horse Center
 Corner Farm
 Country Comfort Farm
 Crystal Park Stables Inc.
 Destination Farm
 Dodon Farm
 Dream Catcher Farm
 Dressage at Sundown
 Dun-Pikin Farm
 Elmwood Farm
 En-Tice-Ment Stables
 Equilibrium Horse Center
 Fair Hill Farm

Fairwinds Farm & Stables Inc.
 Finer Points Farm
 Flying Chesterfield Farm
 Flying K Farm
 Fresh Meadows
 Full Moon Farm
 Glasgow Farm
 Glenn Ridge Farm
 Glennwood Farm
 Glenwillow Inc.
 Good Friday Farm
 Great Strides
 Greenock Hills Stables
 Harkaway Farm
 Hazelnut Ridge Farm LLC
 Hidden Hills Horse Farm
 Hilltop Farm Inc.
 Holly Ridge Equestrian Center
 Homestead Farms Inc.
 Hunters by the Bay
 Ladds Landing Farm
 Larking Hill Farm
 Liberty View Farm LLC
 Loch Moy Farm
 Longevity Farm
 Lucky Cricket Farm LLC
 Paradise Stables
 Patuxent Run Stables

Periwinkle Farm
 Persimmon Tree Farm
 Pleasant Prospect Farm
 Pleasant View Equine & Agriculture Inc.
 Potomac Horse Center
 Reichs Ford Farm
 Safe Haven Farm
 Second Wind Farm
 Southwind Farm Inc.
 Sparling Rock Holsteiners
 Stable Minds, LLC
 Stone's Throw Farm
 Sugarloaf Equestrian Center
 Suits Chance Farm
 Sunset Hill at McCuan Farms LLC
 Thistlehill Farm
 Three Generations Farm
 Waredaca
 White Hart Farm
 White Rock View
 Winding Creek Farm
 Winfield Farm
 Wolf Creek Equine
 Woodbury Equestrian Center
 Worthmore Equestrian Center
 Wyndham Oaks
 Yetter Training Center

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and five Directors elected by the Board. The Executive Committee executes the business, policy and priorities established by the Board, and in the course thereof has authority to exercise all the powers and duties of the Board, not specifically reserved to the Board by the By-Laws. A written report on Executive Committee meetings is available to all the Directors. The Executive Committee may appoint additional non-voting, advisory members from time to time in its discretion.



President: Jane Seigler
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**Vice President:
Neil Agate**
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**Treasurer:
Dale Clabaugh**
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dale.clabaugh@gmail.com



**Secretary:
Valerie Ormond**
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Directors elected to serve on the Executive Committee:



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Kathleen Tabor
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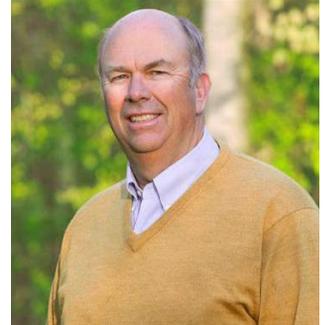
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Bill Reightler
Equine Representative to the
MD Agricultural Commission
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Non-Voting Advisory

individuals and youth. To join, please visit www.mdhorsecouncil.org. The Maryland Horse Council is sponsored by B&D Builders, Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, The Equiery, Cloverleaf Standardbred

Owners' Association & Rosecroft Raceway, and Days End Farm Horse Rescue. To learn more about how to sponsor the Maryland Horse Council, please visit www.mdhorsecouncil.org.

Maryland Horse Council membership is open to all associations, farms, businesses, charities and foundations,



MHC Balance Sheet

				June 29, 15	June 29, 14	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS							
	Current Assets						
		Checking/Savings					
			M&T Checking	22,678.94	24,501.78	-1,822.84	-7.44%
			M&T Savings				
			Lobbying Fund	2,060.56	2,060.56	0.00	0.0%
			Restricted Cash	15,900.00	15,233.03	666.97	4.38%
			M&T Savings - Other	1,886.98	2,796.87	-909.91	-32.53%
			Total M&T Savings	19,847.52	20,090.46	-242.94	-1.21%
			Total Checking/Savings	42,526.46	44,592.24	-2,065.78	-4.63%
		Other Current Assets					
			Undeposited Funds		4,258.14	-4,258.14	-100.0%
			Total Other Current Assets		4,258.14	-4,258.14	-100.0%
			Total Current Assets	42,526.46	48,850.38	-6,323.92	-12.95%
TOTAL ASSETS				42,526.46	48,850.38	-6,323.92	-12.95%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY							
	Liabilities						
		Current Liabilities					
			Other Current Liabilities				
			Pre-Paid Dues	6,800.00	9,156.67	-2,356.67	-25.74%
			Total Other Current Liabilities	6,800.00	9,156.67	-2,356.67	-25.74%
			Total Current Liabilities	6,800.00	9,156.67	-2,356.67	-25.74%
			Total Liabilities	6,800.00	9,156.67	-2,356.67	-25.74%
	Equity						
		Opening Bal Equity		22,205.99	22,205.99	0.00	0.0%
		Unrestrict (retained earnings)		16,551.29	20,484.92	-3,933.63	-19.2%
		Net Income		-3,030.82	-2,997.20	-33.62	-1.12%
			Total Equity	35,726.46	39,693.71	-3,967.25	-10%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY				42,526.46	48,850.38	-6,323.92	-12.95%

			MHC Profit and Loss	Jul 1, 14 June 29, 15	Jul 1, 13 June 29, 14	\$ Change	% Change
ORDINARY INCOME/ EXPENSE							
	Income						
		Donation					
			Lobbying/Legislative Donation	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%
			MFFH	100.00	95.00	5.00	5.26%
			Donation - Other	315.00	730.00	-415.00	-56.85%
		Total Donation		2,415.00	1,825.00	590.00	32.33%
		Dues					
			Association	3,500.00	2,600.00	900.00	34.62%
			Business	4,050.00	5,340.00	-1,290.00	-24.16%
			Charitable Foundation	858.33	1,065.66	-207.33	-19.46%
			Farm	3,896.67	5,415.99	-1,519.32	-28.05%
			Individual	4,195.00	4,915.00	-720.00	-14.65%
			Lifetime	0.00	-800.00	800.00	-100.0%
			Previous Multi-Year Memberships	5,233.34	0.00	5,233.34	100.0%
			Youth	0.00	35.00	-35.00	100.0%
			Dues-Other	275.00	0.00	275.00	100.0%
		Total Dues		22,008.34	18,571.650	3,436.69	18.51%
		Event Income					
			BBQ	10,597.45	10,079.40	518.05	5.14%
			DAR Income	2,895.00	0.00	2,895.00	100.0%
			EAR Income	0.00	2,701.48	-2,701.48	-100.0%
		Total Event Income		13,582.45	12,780.88	801.57	6.27%
		Grants		0.00	3,500.00	-3,500.00	100.00%
		Hospitality Fund		650.00	750.00	-100.00	-13.33%
		Interest Income					
			Fed Withholding Tax	2.15	-1.58	3.73	236.08%
			Interest Income - Other	20.16	14.03	6.13	43.69%
		Total Interest Income		22.31	12.45	9.86	79.2%
		Item Sales		741.58	220.66	520.92	236.07%
		Sponsorship		15,250.00	10,115.00	5,135.00	50.77%
	Total Income			54,669.68	47,775.64	6,894.04	14.43%
	Expense						
		Association Representation		722.00	470.00	252.00	53.62%
		Awards		0.00	1,526.93	-1,526.93	-100.0%
		Bank Fees		389.47	790.85	-401.38	-50.75%
		Donations					
			BBQ-PAC	10.00	1,602.37	-1,592.37	-99.38%
			MFFH	810.00	190.00	620.00	326.32%
		Donations - Other		550.00	100.00	450.00	450.0%
		Total Donations		1,370.00	1,892.37	-522.37	-27.6%
		Dues and Subscriptions		500.00	770.00	-270.00	20.0%
		Events					
			BBQ				

				Jul 1, 14 - Jun 29, 15	Jul 1, 13 - Jun 29, 14	\$ Change	% Change
		Entertainment		600.00	600.00	0.00	0.0%
		Food & Beverage		4,138.43	3,976.38	162.05	4.08%
		Rental Expense		562.31	619.70	-57.39	-9.26%
		Supplies		154.26	169.94	-15.68	-9.23%
		BBQ - Other		195.00	0.00	195.00	100.0%
	Total BBQ			5,650.00	5,366.02	283.98	5.29%
	Day at the Races			2,524.72	0.00	2,524.72	100.00
	Evening at The Races			0.00	999.85	-999.85	-100.0%
	Horse World Expo			469.57	517.58	-48.01	-9.28%
	Total Events			8,644.29	6,883.45	1,760.84	25.58%
		Flowers/Gifts		142.10	136.86	5.24	3.83%
		Hospitality Fund Exp		337.02	396.14	-59.12	-14.92%
		Income Tax		0.00	0.41	-0.41	-100.0%
		Insurance					
			Liability Insurance	300.00	0.00	300.00	100.0%
			Insurance - Other	810.00	1,110.00	-300.00	-27.03%
		Total Insurance		1,110.00	1,110.00	0.00	0.0%
		Lobbying Expense		9,750.00	6,600.00	3,150.00	47.73%
		Management Fees					
			Bookkeeping	3,300.00	3,250.06	49.94	1.54%
			Management	13,200.00	13,000.00	200.00	1.54%
			Management Bonus	5,681.25	3,438.96	2,242.29	65.2%
		Total Management Fees		22,181.25	19,689.02	2,492.23	12.66%
		Meetings		694.02	1,454.77	-760.75	-52.29%
		Miscellaneous		1.00	0.00	1.00	100.0%
		Office Supplies		2,909.30	1,113.39	1,795.91	161.3%
		Postage		1,016.45	1,240.49	-224.04	-18.06%
		Printing & Copying		3,181.40	5,586.19	-2,404.79	-43.05%
		Projects		312.00	26.00	286.00	1,100.0%
		Promotions/Website					
			Embroidery	1,693.20	447.42	1,245.78	278.44%
			Website	2,097.00	0.00	2,097.00	-100.0%
			Promotions/Website-Other	650.00	620.00	30.00	4.84%
		Total Promotions/Website		4,440.20	1,067.42	3,372.78	315.98%
		Rentals		0.00	65.00	-65.00	-100.0%
	Total Expense			57,700.50	50,819.29	6,881.21	13.54%
Net Ordinary Income				-3,030.82	-3,043.65	12.83	0.42%
Other Income/Expense							
	Other Income						
		Investment Income		0.00	46.45	-46.45	-100.0%
	Total Other Income			0.00	46.45	-46.45	-100.0%
	Net Other Income			0.00	46.45	-46.45	-100.0%
Net Income				-3,030.82	-2,997.20	-33.62	-1.12%