



# The Horsemen's Newsletter

April 2005

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## Another disappointing year in Annapolis

Failure of slots legislation for the third consecutive year is a severe disappointment to Maryland's racing industry.

"There is little left to say that has not already been said, except that we will all continue to work toward providing the best racing product possible—despite the circumstances," said MTHA president Richard Hoffberger.

"Horse racing was not the reason that the legislature could not come to an agreement on slots. Many other factors came into play, and we experienced the fall-out," Mr. Hoffberger said. "There was strong sentiment throughout the leadership to support Thoroughbred horsemen."

Concluded Mr. Hoffberger: "I believe we got our message across—That Thoroughbred horse racing is a vital part of the Maryland economy, and additional revenue for purses would provide opportunities for much-needed growth and prosperity."

## Laurel track raises concerns

The new track at Laurel Park has raised some concerns in the past several weeks.

But track management appears to be working to correct deficiencies. Glen Kozak, the Maryland Jockey Club's superintendent of facilities, has been receptive toward comments and suggestions.

The MTHA is closely monitoring the situation. Horsemen are urged to pass along any concerns to Carmen in the MTHA's race track office.

## MTHA to hold election for Board of Directors

The MTHA's election for the Board of Directors, held every three years, will take place again this summer.

All 15 directorships are up for election. Directors will be elected to a three-year term.

A nominating committee will be appointed in May. This committee will develop a slate of nominees to be presented to the general membership at the MTHA meeting on June 1. Any member who wishes to run for election should call the MTHA office (at 410-265-6842) and plan to attend the June 1 meeting.

In addition to announcing its nominees at the meeting on June 1, the nominating committee will receive nominations from the floor. Floor nominations need a verbal endorsement from at least four members and written consent from the nominee. Nominations will also be accepted by presentation of a petition bearing the signatures of at least five members and the nominee.

Ballots will be mailed to all members in early July, with a return deadline scheduled for early August. Results will be announced in early August. For more information call the MTHA office.

## Where to turn when a horse has finished racing

Need a home for a horse who can no longer race? Following is a list of equine retirement/adoption programs in Maryland.

Source: After the Finish Line, by Bill Heller (BowTie Press, 2005).

Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Kathy Schwartz, (301) 854-5037, www.defhr.org.

Equine Rescue & Rehabilitation, Deborah Frank, (410) 343-2142, www.horserescue.com.

Fox Shadow Foundation, Jeannie Meade, (410) 673-2634, foxshadow@dmv.com

Gambler's Pastures Equine Sanctuary, Vera Karelian, (410) 827-4766.

Greener Pastures Equine Sanctuary, Wendy Moon, (410) 885-2198, www.thoroughbredcharities.org.

Horse Lovers United, Lorraine Truitt, (410) 749-3599, www.horseloversunited.com.

HorseNet Horse Rescue, (410), 795-8989, www.horsenethorserescue.org.

Lost & Found Horse Rescue, Kelly Young, (717) 428-9701, www.lefhr.org.

MidAtlantic Horse Rescue, Beverly Strauss, (302) 376-7297, www.midatlantichorse rescue.org.

New Life Equine Rescue, (301) 305-0702, www.nler.org.

Royal Equine Rescue & Sanctuary Inc., Alyssa Taylor, (443) 417-0069, www.rersi.org.

The Keep at Andelain Farm, Wendy Moulton, (301) 271-4191, www.horsessavingkids.org

Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, Melissa Klick, (800) 728-1660; www.trfinc.org.

## Backstretch security policy remains in effect

Horsemen are reminded that the Maryland Racing Commission continues to maintain a "zero tolerance" policy regarding aggressive, outrageous or intimidating behavior, and acts of vandalism, on the backstretch.

Violators will have their license revoked.

Backstretch personnel are also warned that the Commission's random drug-testing program is being enforced.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. Samadi Abdussamed**, 84, a longtime owner/breeder and proprietor of Turkeli Farm in Hollywood, Md., died February 5.

**Lisa Dzbynski**, wife of starting gate crew member Jeff Dzbynski, died March 22. She was 37.

**Beale Wright Morris**, 34, a top-rated three-day event rider, died March 22. Mrs. Morris, the wife of steeplechase trainer Neil Morris, was the daughter of owner/breeder Dr. William H. Wright and his wife Lana, and granddaughter of renowned Maryland horsewoman Alaire duPont.

**Robert L. Moser**, an owner/breeder in Maryland for 33 years, died March 19 at age 70. Mr. Moser, a general contractor by profession, was the proprietor of Deer View Farm in Finksburg.

**Garnet "Buddy" Troyer**, 70, a trainer at Sagamore Farm during the Native Dancer era, died April 1.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

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Web site: www.mdhorsemen.com

The Horsemen's Newsletter reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland.

Your suggestions are welcome.

## Recreation report

From Dan Mangum, recreation director. For more information on the MTHA's recreation program call (410) 437-4405.

### Orioles tickets

Mark Dillow, from Gary Capuano's barn, was the lucky winner of the first Orioles tickets drawing.

The next drawing will take place on April 27 in the Laurel Park MTHA office—for games versus the Tampa Bay Devil Rays (April 30, 4:35 p.m.) and the Miami Twins (May 10, 7:05 p.m.).

Those who have already signed up for the series of drawings remain eligible. To enter the contest, sign up in the track kitchens.

### Baseball night

The MTHA's Baseball Night at Camden Yards is set for June 15, when the Orioles will face the Houston Astros at 7:05 p.m. Thirty-three tickets will be distributed. Sign-up sheets are posted in the track kitchens.

### Golf

The May 5 golf outing has been postponed due to a scheduling conflict. Notices will be posted when the new date is set.

### Softball

Softball-for-all begins May 10, at 6 p.m., at Laurel. These are pick-up games, with cook-outs on the sidelines. For more information call Dan at (410) 437-4405.

### Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Lee Anne Bennett, Jean Chalk, Jerome Doro, Linda Gaudet, Gene Gilhooly, Phil Grove, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Arlene and Herb Kushner, Miriam and Herb Mittenenthal, Jim Mudgett and Robert Schnackenberg.

## Correction

Maryland's Spring Festival of Racing, on April 23, opening day at Pimlico, featured three stakes for registered Maryland-breds and/or Maryland Million-eligible runners. The races were worth \$100,000 for horses fitting both categories, and \$50,000 for those fitting one category.

This information was stated incorrectly in last month's newsletter.

## Horsemen's calendar

### RACING

**Pimlico** . . . . . Now through June 12; Aug. 12 through Aug. 26

**Colonial Downs** . . . June 17 through Aug. 9

**Laurel** . . . . . Sept. 8 through Dec. 31

**Timonium** . . . . . Aug. 27 through Sept. 5

**FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM** (410) 392-5555

**Two-Year-Olds in Training** . . . May 23, 24

**Two-Year-Olds in Training and Horses of Racing Age** . . . . . June 28

**Eastern Fall Yearlings** . . . . . Oct. 3-5 (Entries close July 11)

**December Mixed** . . . . . Dec. 4, 5 (Entries close Sept. 20)

### OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Spring Two-Year-Olds in Training** Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 . . . . . April 25-28

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Two-Year-Olds in Training and Horses of Racing Age** Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 . . . . . June 21, 22

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Selected Yearlings** Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 . . . July 18, 19

**Saratoga Selected Yearlings** Fasig-Tipton New York, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (516) 328-1800 . . . . . Aug. 9, 10

**New York Breeders Sales Co. Yearlings** Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (518) 691-0345 . . . . . Aug. 11, 12

**Fasig-Tipton New York Preferred Yearlings**, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (516) 328-1800 . . . . . Aug. 14, 15

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected/Open Yearlings** Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 . . . . . Aug. 22-25

**Check the MTHA Web site at [www.mdhorsemen.com](http://www.mdhorsemen.com) for notice of the next Board Meeting**



## Board actions

Meeting held April 13 in Laurel

*Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President; Richard J. Meyer, Vice President; John V. Alecci, Howard M. Bender, Dale Capuano, Phillip L. Capuano, William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr., Linda S. Gaudet, Arnold A. Heft, Lawrence E. Murray, John J. Robb, Valora A. Testerman, Katharine M. Voss*

*Members absent: Anthony W. Dutrow, Paul L. Fowler, Jr.*

### Purse Account audit

The board agreed, by unanimous vote, to reaffirm its earlier decision to discontinue the 6 percent payment to the Maryland Jockey Club toward expenses. The payment originally was part of the Revenue Sharing Agreement, which no longer is in effect.

### Rosecroft simulcasting

The board agreed to continue providing Thoroughbred signals to Rosecroft Raceway on a day-to-day basis, under the terms of the current arrangement.

### Drug and Alcohol Program

By unanimous vote, the board agreed to continue its support of the Drug and Alcohol Program at the same level as in previous years.

### AHC membership

The board voted unanimously to renew the MTHA's membership in the American Horse Council, the major organization providing representation for the Thoroughbred industry in the U.S. Congress.

### Budget

The MTHA's 2005 budget was presented and approved.

## Committee bulletins

### Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported that the race track cushion is inconsistent, and better track maintenance is needed.

### Laurel

Backstretch chairman Larry Murray described a continuing problem with rocks on the horse path.

### Pimlico

Backstretch chairman Bill Fitzgibbons said preparations have been made for the opening of the spring meet, and the Preakness.

## New Bolton Center needs support for \$1.5 million challenge grant

The New Bolton Center has been offered a \$1.5 million challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation.

To earn the grant, the New Bolton Center must find 4,500 new gifts by September 30. Approximately 3,000 new gifts have been received to date—so the goal is in sight.

The Friends of New Bolton Center Fund is asking for contributions of any size. No matter how small, donations will count toward the total gifts needed.

Checks may be made payable to Trustees, University of Pennsylvania, with the memo marked FNBC. Mail to FNBC, 288 Training Center Drive, Elkton, Md. 21921. The transaction also may be completed online at [www.upenn.edu/gifts](http://www.upenn.edu/gifts). Donations are fully tax deductible.

Contributors will be eligible to receive the Veterinary School's magazine, *Bellwether*, as well as invitations to Friends of New Bolton Center lectures and other events.

## American Horse Council recommends vaccination against EEE

As the number of cases of Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE) rises to unusually high levels, the American Horse Council is reminding horse owners to vaccinate their horses for EEE and to boost that vaccination at regular intervals. In the recent outbreaks of EEE, affected horses have either been unvaccinated or were not vaccinated following the recommended intervals.

"The mortality rate in unvaccinated horses runs about 70 to 95 percent," said Dr. Tim Cordes, senior staff veterinarian for equine diseases with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "This is significantly higher than the death rate seen

with the West Nile Virus outbreak." The mortality rate associated with West Nile Virus is about 33 percent.

According to the recommendations of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, horses should be vaccinated against EEE each year, preferably in the spring. Horses residing in endemic areas, however, should have an additional booster vaccination every six months. Owners seeking recommendations for vaccinating foals, weanlings and broodmares should consult an equine practitioner.

*/From the American Horse Council*

## Hoofprints

### Spring Fling at Mt. Washington Tavern

Mark your calendar for the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund's Spring Fling, on June 8 at the Mt. Washington Tavern. The event will raise funds for backstretch workers dealing with the hardships of cancer.

Live and silent auctions of racing-related items will be featured.

The MHAF's Spring Fling is also part of the Mt. Washington Tavern's guest bartending contest—which offers \$10,000 to the winning charity. Look for more details in next month's newsletter.

### New owner seminar

The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association will conduct a seminar for new and prospective owners on May 20 at Pimlico.

For more information call (859) 276-2291 or visit [www.toba.org](http://www.toba.org).

### Ben Perkins, Sr. to judge MHBA Yearling Show

Trainer Ben Perkins Sr. will serve as judge for this year's Maryland Horse Breeders Association Yearling Show, to be held Sunday, June 26 at Timonium Fairgrounds.

The show features six classes for Maryland-bred yearlings.

Entries close May 27. A crab feast will take place the evening before the show at Maryland Stallion Station in Glyndon. The MHBA will conduct a seminar on preparing for the yearling show on Sunday, May 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information call the MHBA at (410) 252-2100.

### Owenses celebrate 50th

The MTHA congratulates former board member Josephine Owens and her husband, Bill, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 22.



## Health Fairs offer free services to backstretch workers

All backstretch workers are invited to take part in Health Fairs to be offered, free of charge, at Bowie, Laurel and Pimlico in May.

Services include lipid profiling, HIV testing, screenings for blood pressure, body fat composition, carbon monoxide and skin cancer, PSA testing, colo-rectal counseling, plus seated massage therapy, and more. Health promoters will be on hand to answer questions.

Cholesterol tests require a 12-hour

fast (no food or drink in the 12 hours before the test).

HIV tests require pre-approval by a physician. Dr. Harry M. Harris is available in the Backstretch Health Center prior to the Health Fair.

The Backstretch Health Center is open on Tuesdays at Pimlico in the First Aid Room, and on Fridays and Saturdays in the track kitchen building at Laurel. Hours for both sites are 9 a.m. to noon. The Backstretch Health Center offers

**Bowie—May 23 (Monday), 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, in the conference room

**Laurel—May 24 (Tuesday), 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, in the recreation area next to the track kitchen

**Pimlico—May 25 (Wednesday), 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, in the MTHA office above the track kitchen

these services free of charge.

Health Fairs are sponsored by the MTHA and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, and are conducted by Adventist Health Care. For more information call Bobby Lillis at (410) 265-6843.



**MTHA**  
6314 Windsor Mill Road  
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**April 2005**

## Thoughts and comment

If slots had passed this year, the MTHA would most likely be working on plans to expand its backstretch programs. Unfortunately, that is not the situation. But the good news is that the MTHA will continue to do a good job with the resources that are available.

One of the most valuable services supported by this organization are the Health Fairs described at the top of this page. Health Fairs have led to the diagnosis of life-threatening but treatable conditions for some, and have improved the quality of life for many more. We are proud, once again, to offer this program free of charge to all backstretch workers.

Medical care is also available, free of charge, year-round, at the Backstretch Health Center. Dr. Harry M. Harris treats backstretch workers, their spouses and families from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays at Pimlico in the First Aid Room, and on Fridays and Saturdays in the track kitchen building at Laurel.

We hope that all backstretch workers will make full use of these services. Please help spread the word among your friends and co-workers. It could make a big difference in someone's life.

*/Richard J. Meyer, MTHA director,  
Health and Welfare  
Committee Chairman*

## MTHA Board of Directors

Richard J. Hoffberger  
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