



October 2015

President's Letter

Jane Seigler

I am so proud of the Maryland Horse Council! We are accomplishing so much! You will receive a detailed account of what we have been up to over the past year in our Annual Report, which will be distributed at the November Quarterly Meeting. But in this letter I want to focus on the immediate future, and on how we need you to come to the November meeting to weigh in on some important actions we are contemplating, and to help us shape our future actions and initiatives.

The MHC Annual Membership Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, November 17th, at the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. Once again, it will be preceded by a fabulous behind the scenes tour of the Capitol. The Statehouse in Annapolis is the oldest state capitol in the United States still in continuous legislative use and is the only state house to have ever served as the nation's capitol—see more details about the meeting and tour elsewhere in this issue. As activities related to the start of the State Legislative Session begin to crank up, this is the meeting where our members gather to consider their role in one of our core missions: making our voices heard in the legislative process. Traditionally, the November meeting is our Annual Membership Meeting, so this is also the meeting where we review our progress and accomplishments in the year since our

last Annual Meeting. Prospective members, please join us as our guests at this meeting.

This year, we have some really important issues to discuss at our November meeting.

Slaughter of Horses for Human Consumption: At our August Quarterly meeting at the Great Frederick Fairgrounds, we reported on the results of a survey we sent to all our members, asking for opinions on whether or not MHC should support the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act, which is currently pending in the US Congress. Here is the question that was posed in the survey: Should Maryland Horse Council take a position in support of the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act, effectively banning the "sale or transport of equines or equine parts in interstate or foreign commerce for purposes of human consumption?"

Sixty-four percent of respondents said MHC should take a position supporting the SAFE Act. As a result of this survey, MHC has proposed a policy resolution on the slaughter of horses for human consumption. This resolution was sent to all members of the MHC Board of Directors, asking for a vote to be submitted no later than November 1, 2015. The effective language of the resolution is: "Now therefore be it resolved that, Maryland Horse Council will support legislation banning the sale or transport of equines or equine

parts in interstate or foreign commerce for purposes of human consumption, including the federal Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act. Furthermore, Maryland Horse Council 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 abandoned or neglected."

The results of the Board of Directors' vote will be announced at the meeting. If this is an issue of importance to you, please come to the meeting to share ideas for solving the unwanted horse problem with your fellow MHC members.

Maryland Horse Council Meeting

Quarterly Meeting November 17th

Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street | Annapolis, MD 21041

4 pm: Legislative Tour

6 pm: Reception | 7 pm: Meeting

Highlights for Meeting:

Behind the scenes Annapolis State House tour

Meet Dr. Chad Stahl, the new Chair of the University of Maryland Animal and Avian Sciences Department
MHC and Maryland Horse Industry Update on plans for Maryland Horse Park System

Statewide Sunday hunting compromise proposal

Results of MHC Board vote on Proposed Policy Resolution on the Slaughter of Horses for Human Consumption

2016 legislative outlook

Visit www.mdhorsecouncil.org for RSVP details!

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Proposal for Statewide Sunday hunting compromise: MHC has been involved for many years—decades even—in a fight to stop the spread of Sunday hunting across Maryland. In the early 2000's, several attempts to allow statewide Sunday hunting (which had never before been allowed in Maryland), were thwarted. Subsequently, Sunday hunting proponents adopted a strategy, attempting to secure Sunday hunting on a county-by-county basis, a few counties and a few Sundays at a time, gradually expanding the scope with each successive legislative session. MHC was successful in preventing it in some (but not all) counties.

But it has been a difficult battle, because bills that are submitted by county delegations, as these Sunday hunting bills typically, are accorded special deference by all of the legislators. We have been—remarkably—successful on a few occasions, but some legislators have made it clear that they would like to see a statewide solution, rather than spending time on this piecemeal approach every session. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, which regulates hunting, has also expressed an interest in adopting a statewide approach. And many citizens, hunters and non-hunters alike, recognize that the current regulations are too complicated and vary too much from county to county to be easily comprehensible.

MHC leadership has recently been discussing ways in which a statewide compromise could be effected that would equitably honor the interests of both the hunting community and the other citizen users of outdoor recreation opportunities. One possibility would be to allow Sunday firearms hunting of white-tailed deer during the regular season, as long as it ceases no later than three hours after

sunrise. What do you think of that idea? Please come to the meeting to let us know.

In addition to these weighty topics, if you come to the meeting you can also:

- Get a behind the scenes tour of the State House led by our great lobbyist, Frank Boston
- Meet Dr. Chad Stahl, the new Chair of the University of Maryland Animal and Avian Sciences Department
- Receive detailed MHC and Maryland Horse Industry Board annual reports
- Hear the latest on plans for the Maryland Horse Park System
- Hear about the outlook for the 2016 legislative session

So mark your calendars and plan to come to the meeting. We eagerly seek your input and involvement. (We have great refreshments, too!)

Jane Seigler

Horse Council PAC Update from Win Hayward

2015 has been a successful rebuilding year, and the PAC is now well positioned for the upcoming political season. Per the by-laws, there was a smooth replacement of two existing members of the Board of Directors, resulting in political party and geographic affiliations that are more diverse than ever. On the fundraising front, the PAC has significantly 'restocked the coffers'. Thank you to our loyal members of the MHC, and we always welcome contributions from our communities that benefit from the horse industry. The PAC has also benefitted from both raffle and auction proceeds at the recent MHC Annual BBQ. But for the first time the PAC also solicited dona-

tions from organizations in neighboring states that benefit from a vibrant Maryland horse industry and that trend will continue.

Late autumn is when the PAC will make donations to elected state officials. Leaders of key state legislative committees with jurisdiction over industry issues—e.g. Sunday hunting, nutrient management, racing, etc. - as well as members who have demonstrated support for our positions have received the most attention. If you believe there's a legislator deserving of support, please either write to; HC PAC, 18010 Bentley Rd, Sandy Spring, MD 20860, or e-mail win.hayward@yahoo.com.

Finally for more information about the PAC, or to make a donation, please visit our page on the MHC website: <http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/horse-council-pac>.



The Maryland Horse Council recently received this Official Citation courtesy of Delegate Teresa E. Reilly in recognition of our 30th Anniversary Celebration

Farm Stewardship Meeting Report from Jane Thery

The day was spectacular after a rainy weekend. About 20 of us gathered for the Maryland Horse Council Farm Stewardship meeting at Waredaca Farm 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-in sheds and tree line to protect them from the elements. They stay happier and healthier with this outdoor living.

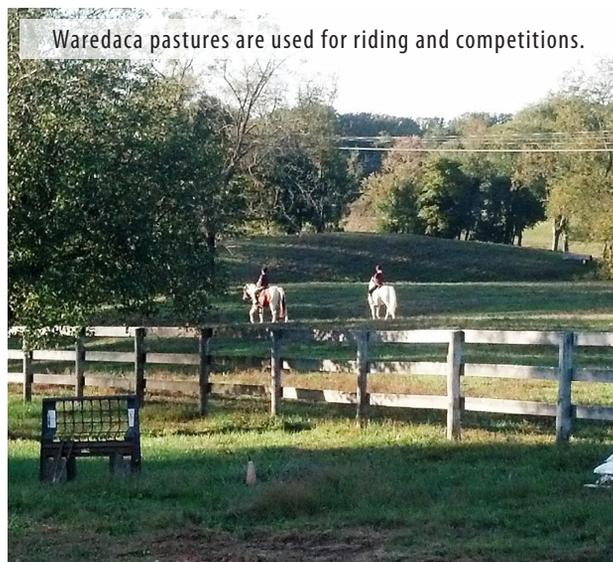
Jane Seigler, President of the Maryland Horse Council, encouraged participants to come to the Maryland Horse Council annual meeting in Annapolis that will address issues such as federal legislation banning transport and sale of horses for human consumption, and Sunday hunting.

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. The meeting also covered other issues, including 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. Key partners 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, Coordinator for the Equine Studies Program at the University of Maryland, College Park, described her ongoing research on turf grasses and their carbohydrate and sugar levels. She and her students are collaborating with Rutgers to study the effects of continuous compared to rotational grazing on the health of the horse.

to identify fluctuations in gut pH and blood glucose and insulin levels. They put glow sticks on the horses' halters to find them in the dark! She also discussed research findings on the use of best management practices by Maryland horse farm owners. The results are that most horse farms have good vegetation in



Waredaca pastures are used for riding and competitions.

their pastures, but heavy erosion in areas where horses are congregating. Some shortfalls are lack of gutters and downspouts to manage roof water run off, improper manure storage and lack of buffers between pastures and surface water. Education about the benefits of heavy use pads and cost-share programs through the government agencies is needed.

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

Special thanks to Robert and Gretchen Butts for hosting us, including fine refreshments, and for their commitment to our Maryland land and horse community.

Waredaca owner Robert Butts describes how he keeps the lesson horses out 24/7 on his well-managed pastures and the challenges of grazing on a competition venue.



They are collecting grass, manure and blood samples of grazing horses over several 24 hour periods



One common bond ... the Horse. One common voice ... Maryland Horse Council.

Maryland Horse Council Membership Form

Membership Type: *(check your membership type/amount)*

	Annual	3-Year	5-Year	Lifetime	Total
ASSOCIATION:	_____ \$100	_____ \$300	_____ \$500	_____ \$1,000	_____ \$
BUSINESS:	_____ \$100	_____ \$285	_____ \$475	_____ \$1,000	_____ \$
FARM:	_____ \$75	_____ \$215	_____ \$355	_____ \$750	_____ \$
CHARITY & FOUNDATION:	_____ \$75	_____ \$215	_____ \$355	_____ \$750	_____ \$
INDIVIDUAL:	_____ \$40	_____ \$105	_____ \$175	_____ \$400	_____ \$
YOUTH:	_____ \$5	<i>Date of Birth:</i> _____			_____ \$

Donations: *(if you would like to make a donation to one of our funds, please write in amount(s) below)*

Political Action Committee:	_____ \$	_____	_____	_____	_____ \$
Maryland Fund for Horses:	_____ \$	_____	_____	_____	_____ \$
MHC General Fund:	_____ \$	_____	_____	_____	_____ \$

TOTAL Amount *(Dues plus Donations):* _____ \$**MEMBER INFORMATION:** *(please fill in completely)*

Assn./Bus./Farm/Charity or Foundation: _____

Contact or Individual's Name: _____

Address: _____ County: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell: _____ Home: _____ Work: _____

Email(s): _____

Website: _____

 Check if you **DO NOT** want your membership to automatically renew each year. Renewals take place each July.**PAYMENT:** *Can be paid Online, by Mail, or by Phone***CREDIT CARD info:** *(NOTE: If credit card billing address differs from the address above, please complete below)*CC # *(please print clearly)* _____

Exp. Date _____

Security Code _____

Name of card holder as it appears on card *(please print)* _____

Signature _____

Billing Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Pay ON-LINE at:**MAIL Payments to:****Pay by PHONE:**www.mdhorsecouncil.org/join.htm

Maryland Horse Council
P.O. Box 141
Damascus, MD 20872

301.502.8929