



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

MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

Maryland Horse Council—

What kind of organization is it?

MHC is a private, non-government related entity; it is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) organization with dues paying members.

Who makes up the Horse Council?

The Maryland Horse Council is an umbrella association for all Maryland horse organizations. The Maryland Horse Council belongs to the American Horse Council, which is an umbrella organization for all national horse organizations and state horse councils.

What is the purpose of the Horse Council?

Like the American Horse Council, which represents the horse industry on Capital Hill on federal legislation and regulatory issues, the Maryland Horse Council represents the horse community in Annapolis. Like our national organization, MHC monitors legislation and regulatory issues which may affect the horse community.

MHC also supports research, education and promotion.

How does MHC decide its position on issues, or what issues it is going to work on in Annapolis?

Members must bring an issue to the Board of Directors for discussion. The Board of Directors will then vote to establish the position of the Maryland Horse Council.

Who is on the Board of Directors?

The MHC Board of Directors consists of one representative for every dues-paying member organization. There are Directors-at-Large to represent non-association members (businesses, farms, individuals and youth). The Board of Directors elects the Executive Committee, which serves as a combination steering and long range planning committee. Members stay directors as long as their dues are current.

2002 MHC Board of Directors

Association, Representative

Carroll Co. Equestrian Council, Carolyn Garber
Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horses, Jacquelyn Cowan
Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Assn., Sharon Roberts
Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc., Kathleen Schwartz
Elkridge Harford Hunt, Jay Young
Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc., Debbie Rollins Frank
Fair Hill International, Lou Morris
Goshen Hounds, Kim Manuelidis
Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds, Pamela Bussard
Humane Society of Carroll Co., Nicky Rattliff
League of Maryland Horsemen, Carmen Day
Marlborough Hounds, Christy Clagett
MD 4-H Foundation, Robert Cooper
MD Assn. for Wildlife Conservation, Malcolm Commer
MD Assn. of Equine Practitioners, Mike Erskine, DVM
MD Combined Training Assn., Judy Strohmaier
MD Dressage Association, Judith Provencal
MD Equestrian Foundation, Dorothy Troutman
MD Farriers Association, Tim Streaker
MD Horse Breeders Assn., Cricket Goodall
MD Horse Shows Assn., Street Moore
MD Jockey Club, Tim Capps
MD Standardbred Breeders Assn., Felicia Hilleary
MD State Quarter Horse Assn., Rhonda Replogle
MD TB Horsemen's Assn., Christine Bricker
Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Assn., David Turner
New Market Middletown Valley Hounds, Malcolm Commer, Jr.
Pasadena Horse and Pony Club, Charlene McCraith
Plantation Walking Horses of MD, Sandy McCann
Potomac Hunt Club, Monica J. Breland
Potomac Valley Dressage Assn., Jane Seigler
Trail Riders of Today, Gale Monahan
Tuckahoe Equestrian Center, Royce Herman
Washington Intl. Horse Show, Gina dePasquale
Wicomico Hunt, Cindy Wood

Directors at Large

Business & Farms, LuAnne Levens
Business & Farms, Crystal Brumme
Business & Farms, John Nunn

Individuals, Beverly Raymond
Individuals, Sol Goldstein
Individuals, Elizabeth Madlener

2002 Executive Committee

• President—LuAnne Levens..... 301-421-1252
.....levenslk@aol.com
• Vice President—Mike Erskine 301-854-5689
.....mikedvm@aol.com
• Treasurer—Keith Wills 410-838-4242
.....kwillis@midatlanticfarmcredit.com
• Secretary—Crystal Brumme 410-489-7826
.....equiery@erols.com
• Tim Capps 301-725-0400
.....tcapps@marylandracing.com
• Malcolm Commer 410-531-0534
.....mc86@uemail.umd.edu
• Tim Streaker 410-489-5433
.....trstreaker@bellatlantic.net
• Dorothy Troutman 301-627-1327

Ex-Officio Members

• Beverly Raymond, *Past Treasurer*..... 410-841-5822
• Elizabeth Madlener, *Past President* .. 301-963-7963
.....em_dressage@mindspring.com
• Sol Goldstein, *Past President*..... 410-339-6610

QUARTERLY MEETING

Thurs. Jan. 16, 2003
7 p.m.

Administration Building
Maryland State Fair
Grounds

Convenient to
Horse World Expo

Come early and
enjoy the meet &
greet reception!

Hot sandwiches & drinks



Serving the
Industry
Serving You

Maryland Horse Council

2003

- Association—\$100
- Farm/Business—\$50
- Youth Club—\$10
- Individual—\$25

Name _____
(Assoc./Business/Farm/Youth Club/Individual)
Phone _____
If Assoc., Representative to Serve as MHC
Board Member _____
Phone _____
Alternate _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Email _____
Website _____
Fax _____

Mail w/ check payable to:
Maryland Horse Council
P.O. Box 233
Lisbon, MD 21765



MHHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

PLEASURE RIDERS UNITE WITH THE NEW MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE

by Jacquelyn Cowan

The Pleasure Riding community across Maryland has continued to grow. For the purpose of this article, I will define Pleasure Riders as anyone who enjoys the company of horses for the pure pleasure of riding, whether on private or public lands, and whether or not there is a trophy or check reward at the end of the day. So I guess that means pretty much all of us who climb aboard a horse for a relaxing trail ride around the farm; meet up with friends for a ride Maryland's many beautiful parks, train for a brisk competitive or endurance run; or enjoy the challenge of field events like foxchasing. We all may have different goals and destinations, but the one thing in common is we practice the art of equine enjoyment on public and private lands. Most importantly, we also share the common bond of dwindling trails and accessibility.

It is for this primary reason that the Maryland Horse Council has recently revived the Trails and Greenways Committee. The first meeting brought representatives from some of Maryland's predominant trail riding clubs together. Each came with their own specialty and/or skill—funding, mapping, communications, trail marking, teaching, legislative testimony, and lots of hours in the saddle and on the trail.

The second meeting hosted a few more folks with political and community ties. The Trails and Greenways Committee is so new the third meeting has not happened yet. Like a new born baby, the Committee is growing not just in numbers but in maturity. And just like babies, we started with forming thoughts—who are we, what are we all about? And now we begin to articulate those thoughts into goals and missions that share a common theme—preservation.

The Committee will serve as a “clearing house” as such on topics related to trails—funding, mapping, etiquette, and legislation. The Committee will develop resources to help all equestrians tackle their own trail issues and make them available through brochures, articles, the Internet, and most importantly, an equestrian communications network of shared experience and knowledge.

This brings us to our first and most immediate task... Addressing legislative issues that may impact equestrians. At this time we have not heard

of any particular bill that may be introduced, but as in the past, we usually do not have a lot of advanced information. So today we will talk in generalities with the anticipation of something forthcoming.

SUNDAY HUNTING

Whether you ride on private land or in public parks, this is a legislative issue that can affect each of us. Over the last few years several bills have been introduced into the Maryland State Legislature to allow deer hunting on Sundays. Various amendments have debated private and public lands; firearm, bow and muzzle. The first year a handful of equestrians and other outdoor enthusiasts encouraged the Senate committee to let it die even though it had initially passed the House of Delegates. The second year a stronger coalition of outdoor enthusiasts led by the equestrian community prevented possible bills from being introduced. The third year (last year) hunting on Sunday was included in a bill addressing Maryland's ever-increasing deer population—it passed both the Senate and the House of Delegates and died only because Governor Glendening did not sign it. Legislators said they had never had an issue raise such furor before with phone calls, letters and emails flooding their offices—many of which were equestrians concerned about losing the ability to ride safely on at least one day of the week during deer season.

We are preparing now as best as we can for this coming legislative year. Each and every one of you are integral to successfully preserving the current and delicate balance between hunter and other outdoor enthusiasts:

- Almost all of our public trails in Maryland are shared use with other outdoor enthusiasts—hikers, bikers, birders, and hunters—this is a very delicate balance that has worked for years.

- Therefore, the Sunday Hunting issue is not an anti-hunting campaign. The goal is maintaining the status quo of six days available for hunting and one day (Sunday) with no hunting allowed.

- Private trails are usually a network winding through a patchwork of properties. Each property owner will make his or her own decision about allowing hunting, and it can be so difficult to recognize property lines and property “policy”. Even when properties are sold there is no guarantee that the new owner will continue with the previous owner's “no hunting” policy. Most of us pick and choose what days and where we feel safe to ride during the hunting season—just imagine if we did not happen

to have that precious Sunday to enjoy.

- In the past some legislators thought this to be a property rights issue—property owners should be able to make decisions regarding their own properties, ie hunt on Sunday or not. Rural property owners concerned about one more day of hunting have cried for a break from their own safety concerns and sound of firearms to enjoy their own yards and fields. Others have voiced concerns for the safety of their livestock and pets.

- Make your voice heard—politely and effectively through emails, letters, phone calls, and personal visits to your legislative representatives. State your position and needs clearly, present the facts accurately, and keep it brief. Form letters and postcards usually are not effective. To find your representative visit <http://mlis.state.md.us> and click on “Contact” or “Find Your Legislator”.

- Volunteer...we are currently in need of Legislative Monitors—people to monitor the State Legislature's web site for bills... Our eyes and ears as such. This is an important battle that will most likely ensue again this year. Whether you ride predominantly on private trails or in public parks it is and should be an issue of great passion and concern to you. The Trails and Greenways Committee will provide up-dates on progress and try to coordinate formal efforts, but the Committee is totally relying on each of you to take a proactive role. Please don't wait for someone else to do something for you.

AMBASSADORSHIP

And speaking of YOU...please remember that every rider is an ambassador to the rest of the world for all of us equestrians. The previous MHC Trails and Greenways Committee developed a wonderful brochure (Trail Etiquette for Hikers, Bikers and Equestrians) that is still in use today. We have all read numerous articles on safe and responsible trail riding. The competitive associations all have rules for expected behavior, as do the numerous foxchasing clubs. At the base of all these expectations and recommendations is the concept of being a responsible and considerate equestrian. As we struggle to preserve existing private trails and access to public parks, each one of us is critical to that preservation—as they say, “One bad apple can spoil the whole basket.” So every time we ride out we become ambassadors for the entire riding community.

To get involved with the Trails and Greenways Committee... Peggy Bree at bree@riva.net or Jacquie Cowan 410-923-6157-7828 (fax)