



# MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

## Welcome New Sponsors

The Maryland Horse Council would like to welcome aboard new annual sponsors B&D Builders, MidAtlantic Farm Credit and Southern States. MHC has long enjoyed support from both Farm Credit and Southern States for various activities, but we are proud to announce that they are now annual sponsors. In addition, B&D Builders joins us this year. B&D built the barn at Paradise Stables, the location of our first annual MHC BBQ at Paradise Stables.

These sponsors join the following current annual sponsors: Naden/Lean, *The Equiery*, and Maryland Horse Breeders Association. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org.

## Kudos

Two key MHC volunteers are moving on.

Peggy Bree, our long time Trails & Greenways Committee Co-Chair and Coordinator, is moving to - alas - another state. She promises to stay in touch, but obviously wrangling all the Maryland trail groups into a cohesive communication unit won't be practical for her any longer.

Donata Dow, a website designer for the U.S. Navy, was responsible for revamping and polishing the look of the MHC website. However, the growth of MHC and the volume of work for it has increased to such an extent that it is no longer practical for a volunteer to keep it updated. We have contracted the maintenance and updating of the site to a local firm.

MHC owes both Peggy and Donata a huge thank you for their many years of volunteer service and dedication to YOU, the Maryland equestrian community.

If you would like to send your thanks, you can do so by e-mailing them at [bree@riva.net](mailto:bree@riva.net) and [donata@radix.net](mailto:donata@radix.net).

## A Refreshed Look

MHC's association manager, Vanessa Finney, has been hard at work helping to revamp and clean up MHC's various brochures and publications.

Thanks to Vanessa, we have a wonderful new brochure clearly outlining the various membership options (farm, business, individual, association, youth group) and the benefits for each level of membership. If you would like one of these brochures, please either e-mail secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org or call *The Equiery* at 410-489-7826.

In addition to the printed materials, Vanessa is working with a professional website designer to refresh the website and to provide timely updates of information, as well as some on-line benefits for our sponsors.

## August MHC Meeting Highlights

The Maryland Horse Industry Board Health Advisory Committee has been endorsing the hiring of an epidemiologist at the University of Maryland, the improvement of diagnostic equipment at the MDA State Laboratories, the evaluation of current necropsy and cremation fees at the MDA to see if they can be lowered and made more affordable, the adoption and support of the American Association's horse biosecurity practices by the MDA, and the State Fair Board to recommend or mandate Rabies vaccinations for horses competing at the State Fair.

There are 35 horse rescues that belong to the Maryland Association of Rescues and Equine Sanctuaries. For information on their November meeting, please contact [kathy.defhr@comcast.net](mailto:kathy.defhr@comcast.net) or visit [mdhorsecouncil.org](http://mdhorsecouncil.org).

The March 2008 MHC Equine Health Seminar will likely focus on equine colic.

A new chair of the Trails and Greenways committee is needed.

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board is requesting input from the members of the horse industry who have an interest in transportation. There are

line items in their proposal for miles of pedestrian and biker pathways. There may be an opportunity to meet with the Transportation Board to voice the concern of horse owners over the lack of space for riding horses in the hopes that they would construct greenways for riding horses in the state and region.

A member who is currently undergoing a tax battle with the State of Maryland (the State is attempting to collect amusement taxes, such as those collected at amusement parks, on revenues from the member's pony ride business), encouraged people to lobby

**Joint Meeting  
Maryland Horse Council  
and the  
Maryland Horse Industry Board  
Tuesday, November 13, 2007  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Conference Room East  
Annapolis, Maryland**

### Meet & Greet Reception: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Food sponsored by the Maryland Horse Industry Board  
Vintage Tasting by the Maryland Wine/Grape Industry  
Please invite your delegates and congressmen! Go to  
[www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org) to find out who your representative is and how to reach him or her!

Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker:

Former pony clubber, whipper-in and now  
the Senate Minority Leader

**David Brinkley**

Did the Leader of the Senate Minority succeed in stopping the  
Democratic Majority's Quest for a Special Session?

If so, what does this mean for slots?

And what does a "Green Tax" mean to indoor arenas and stables?

Service Business and Taxes

Q&A Session

**Special Presentation by: Frank Cubero**  
Horses, Agriculture and Maryland Law - Does  
Maryland Law Really Consider Horses to be Agriculture?

After the meeting, join everyone at Harry Brownie's for some  
informal networking!

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

*To join, please visit [mdhorsecouncil.org](http://mdhorsecouncil.org), contact secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org or call 410-489-7826 and request a membership form.*

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members of the Maryland Congress to view horses as agriculture, which would thereby exempt pony rides and carriage rides from the amusement tax. Currently, the tax assessor does not consider pony rides to be part of agriculture. The Frederick Agriculture Business Council is discussing this issue and how broadly it affects the agricultural industry. Montgomery County passed legislation that exempted agricultural events (pick your own, corn mazes, etc) from amusement taxes.

The import/export facility feasibility study, at the time of the meeting, was still collecting the necessary data for the study, including surveys of shippers and horse industry members. The

team has investigated a cargo facility at the BWI airport that is currently not in use, which seems promising after preliminary investigation. It would likely cost around \$4.5 million to construct the facility. There are some concerns over the economic feasibility and the potential negative impacts of a Maryland facility on other import/export facilities.

The February 2008 MHC Equine Business seminar will most likely feature employment issues; if you have any other ideas for topics, or would like to be on the advisory committee for the seminar, please e-mail [jane@reddemeade.com](mailto:jane@reddemeade.com).

Anne Arundel County government is considering including some equestrian amenities

at the old Naval Academy Dairy, which the county has acquired as a park.

Harford and Howard Counties are each investigating establishing a horse park for their respective counties.

Volunteers are needed to man the MHC booth at Expo! Please contact [raherman1@verizon.net](mailto:raherman1@verizon.net).

### *MHC 2007 Executive Committee*

President: Michael D Erskine, DVM, 301-829-4977, [mikedvm@aol.com](mailto:mikedvm@aol.com)

Vice President: Jane Seigler, 301-421-9064, [jane@reddemeade.com](mailto:jane@reddemeade.com)

Secretary: Crystal Kimball, 410-489-7826, [secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org](mailto:secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org)

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## **Boarding in Maryland: What you Need to Know!**

Ever wonder what is considered "standard" these days?

Are you curious as to what "average" board rates are in your area?

Then you don't want to miss the results of ***The Equiery's Boarding Stable Market Study!***

Look for it in an upcoming issue.

(Want to subscribe? Turn to page 4 for more information.)