

# MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

## Message from the President *Steuart Pittman*

Following in the footsteps of Mike Erskine is an honor. I doubt that I will lead with the calmness and patience that he blessed us with. Nobody can match his heartfelt desire to hear what everyone has to say. And I know that his commitment to getting our house in order far surpasses mine.

Mike's legacy with the Horse Council is the strategic plan that has guided us, the transition from being all-volunteer to having a paid administrator, the birth of our annual Business Seminar and Health Seminar, and the creation of our annual Barbecue which he actually served as chef for...once. This is only a partial list.

I agreed to take on this position because of a belief that we are a community that has more power and potential than we know. Horse farms are good for our environment and horses are good for our souls. According to a 2005 survey 10% of the American population rides, another 5% did at one time, and another 18% wants to. That adds up to 33%. That TV series about jockeys was the top rated show on Animal Planet ever.

The Maryland Horse Council has a proud history of accomplishments and carries a level of respect in Annapolis that few of us acknowledge. We represent the horse folks in the eyes of decision-makers. They need to hear more from us. So does the press. So do our allies in the environmental movement and the farm lobby.

To reach our potential I see only one sure path. We must vastly increase our membership rolls and increase participation in all of our activities. Lobbyists will not move our agenda for us in this day and age. Politicians listen to numbers.

Nothing is more fun than getting together with the community that shares your passion and throwing your weight around. I look forward to making some noise with all of you in the coming years and returning Maryland to its historic place as Horse Country.



Photo courtesy of the Office of the Governor

**Bills HB 995, to increase the feed fund and HB 973, to include horses in a definition of agriculture, are signed into law. Front Row (l-r): Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, Senate President Thomas V. Miller, Governor Martin O'Malley, Speaker of the House of Delegates Michael Busch. Back Row (l-r): MHC President Steuart Pittman, Delegate Virginia Clagett, Secretary of Agriculture Earl F. Hance, Florence Jordan (Maryland Agricultural Commission), MHIB Executive Director Rob Burk.**

### *Maryland Horse Council Executive Committee*

#### OFFICERS

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*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](mailto:secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org) or call 410-489-7826 and request a membership form.*

*The Maryland Horse Council is sponsored by Naden/Lean, LLC, Maryland Horse Breeders Association, B&D Builders, Farm Credit and The Equiery.*



# See You at the Horse Forum - August 6

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) has teamed up with the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) to bring you the second-ever industry-wide Horse Forum on August 6 at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro.

Hundreds of Maryland horsemen, breeders, business owners, recreational riders, and government officials will gather for a full day of brainstorming sessions. Governor

O'Malley is expected to share his thoughts about our industry in a keynote address. Nobody who cares about the horse community or the horse industry in Maryland should miss this free daylong event.

A similar forum took place almost exactly five years ago. Some 300 people attended and the result was a list of goals that have guided our work since then. Slots at racetracks, a Maryland Horse Park, defining horses as agriculture in state law, increasing through the feed fund the resources available for marketing, local grants, and industry surveys, and adjusting state guidelines to ensure that horse farms are eligible for land preservation programs are just a sampling.

The agenda for this forum revisits many of the same topics but we expect the recommendations to reflect the economic times that we are in and the competitive disadvantage that Maryland racing and showing are in with respect to neighboring states. Each session will have experts on those topics present and a professional moderator. The in-

tent is to engage everyone but also to seek consensus where possible.

The website provides an outline of topics but does not offer a full picture of the breadth of the sessions. It is your responsibility to ensure that your issues are discussed in these sessions. It is your responsibility to not only attend yourself, but to encourage others in your part of the horse world to be there as well.

In 2010 the Maryland Horse Industry Board will have a fund that is close to \$187,500 from assessments on the sale of horse feed, and it will rise to \$215,000 in 2011. In recent years that fund has been closer to \$75,000 or \$1 per person.

How would you like to see the new money spent? The mission of the MHIB is to promote the horse industry through grants and local organizations, research, and marketing. Funding decisions are made by the MHIB board, but they want to know what we think. Do we want studies that show our economic impact on the state? More grants for youth programs? An updated equine census? A state initiative to market horses and horse sports? Work toward establishing a state Horse Park? Investment in multiple competition venues?

Use your imagination. Bring your ideas to the Horse Forum, and bring them to the MHC Quarterly Meeting. By the way, there IS such a thing as free lunch at the Maryland Horse Forum...unless you are one of the sponsors who is paying for it.

To register, go to [www.mdhorseforum.com](http://www.mdhorseforum.com) and click on RSVP.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**  
NELSON GARNETT, DVM  
WENDY MOULTON  
VALERIE A. ORMOND  
KATHRYN STANLEY

## - Maryland Horse Council Membership -

P.O. Box 6603, Annapolis, MD 21401

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Business/Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Benefits: Newsletter • Annual Equiery subscription • Discount to all MHC Annual Seminars (an annual savings of up to \$50!) • E-mail alerts MHC decal • Networking

Membership Type	Annual	Lifetime
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$40	\$400
<input type="checkbox"/> Farm	\$75	\$750
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$100	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Association	\$100	\$1,000

- Do you own horses?    yes    no    Or ride horses owned by others?    yes    no
- What is your biggest concern facing equestrian community?
  - Losing trails to development     Lack of equestrian facilities     Lack of educational programs
  - Lack of representation on television, sports programs, etc.     Other
- Reason for joining MHC:     New to area, want to meet other equestrians     Want to attend related seminars
  - Want to work on legislative issues affecting the equestrian community     Other

Master Card and Visa accepted, credit card application may be faxed to 410-741-3780

Name of cardholder as it appears on the card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card no: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**The Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, May 19, 2009  
Prince George's Equestrian Center  
and Showplace Arena**

**Officers Present:**

- Mike Erskine, President and MD Association of Equine Practitioners,
- Jane Seigler, Vice-President and Director-at-Large

for Farms,

- Crystal Kimball, Secretary, Director-at-Large Business, MD Steeplechase Association and Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds,
- Vanessa Finney, MHC Administrator.

**Directors Present:**

Dir. At Large for Individual Members, Dr. Amy Burk  
Director At Large for Farms, Stuart Pittman  
Days End Farm Rescue, Inc., Kathleen Howe  
Maryland Association of Wildlife Conservation, Patty Sasscer  
Maryland Combined Training Association, Cathy Tucker-Slaterback  
Maryland Equestrian Foundation/ Rosaryville Conservancy, Dorothy Troutman  
Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Cricket Goodall  
Maryland Standardbred Breeders Assn, Felicia Hilleary  
Maryland Thoroughbred Horseman's Assn, Christine Bricker  
Potomac Hunt Club, Charlie Mess  
Potomac Valley Dressage Association, Deanna Beal  
Tuckahoe Equestrian Center, Royce Herman

**Directors Absent:**

Treasurer & Director-at-Large - Businesses, Keith Wills  
Director-at-Large -Businesses, Laura Schmidt  
Dir. At Large for Farms, Gretchen Moberley  
Director-at-Large Individuals, Vicki O'Hara  
Dir. At Large for Individual Members, Rob Burk  
Director At Large for Farms, Chrissy Keys Heard  
Director at Large Individuals, Beverly A. Raymond  
Carroll County Equestrian Council, Joseph Zentgraf  
Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horses, Jacquelyn Cowan  
Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association, Sharon Roberts  
Elkridge Harford Hunt (vacant)  
Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc., Debbie Rollins Frank  
Fair Hill International, Inc., Charlie Colgan  
Goshen Hounds, Holly Hamilton  
Graham Equestrian Center, Inc., Jim McDonald  
Howard County Horse Show Association, Mary Anne Steele  
Humane Society of Carroll County, Nicky Ratliff  
League of Maryland Horsemen, Kathy Dobson  
Marlborough Hounds, Christy Clagett  
Maryland 4-H Foundation, Kristin Wilson  
Maryland Dressage Association, Margaret Wilterdink  
Maryland Farriers Association (vacant)  
Maryland Horse Shows Assoc., Deloise Noble-Strong  
Maryland Jockey Club, Carrie Everly  
Maryland State Quarter Horse Association, Terry Christensen  
Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Assoc, David Turner  
New Market Middleton Valley Hounds, Guillermo Warley  
Plantation Walking Horses of MD, Sandy McCann  
The Ranger Foundation, Inc., Ann Corcoran  
Trail Riders of Today, Ron McNab  
Washington International Horse Show (vacant)  
Wicomico Hunt, Cindy Wood

**Annual MHC Picnic BBQ**

**Saturday, September 19, 2009 4:00 p.m.**

**Loch Moy Farm**  
1235 Park Mills Road  
Adamstown, Maryland 21710

**Honoring: Bob Shirley**  
**2009 Maryland Horseman of the Year**

For more information, visit [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org)  
or call 301-803-6573

**WANTED**

**Fun Raffle Items**

*If your business can donate a raffle item, and you confirm this with us by August 15, your business will be recognized in the BBQ promotion in September.*

Please ship or drop off your donated raffle items to:

**The Equiery**  
**16008 Frederick Road**  
**Lisbon, Maryland 21765**  
**410-489-7826**

**MHC MEETING & RECEPTION**

**Tuesday, August 18, 2009, 6 p.m.**  
**Frederick County Fairgrounds, 4H Building**  
**797 East Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21705**  
**Everyone Welcomed!**

Why You MUST Attend the August 18 MHC Meeting:

The August 6 Horse Forum will produce a long list of goals. On August 18, the Horse Council has its Quarterly Board Meeting during which we will define our 2010 legislative agenda. Every association and every constituency that makes up our organization should have a say in what we do next. We expect the Horse Forum recommendations to be the template from which we will work. Some of that material will lend itself to the writing of state legislation.

Please make sure that your association not only has representation at the Horse Forum, but also at the Quarterly Meeting. All horse council members are welcome, but Board Members are required to attend. Be sure that your association boards are aware of the Horse Forum agenda and know about both of these meetings. We expect the delegates to know what their members care about and be willing and able to represent them at these meetings.

For more information, visit [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org)