

MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org



MHC 2010 DATES

August 3

Unwanted Horse Open Meeting
Location TBD

August 17

Open Meeting w/food at Serra Valley

September 14

Business Networking Lunch
Laurel Park
Farm & Business Members Only

September 18

BBQ & 25th Anniversary
Fair Hill Equine Therapy Center
Ticketed event

November 7

Business Networking Lunch
Location TBD
Farm & Business Members Only

November 16

Annual Meeting (Open)
Senate Bldg, Annapolis

For more details, visit
www.mdhorsecouncil.org

MHC Unwanted Horse Project

On June 30 some thirty people met in Clarksville for the first meeting of the MHC Unwanted Horse Project under the leadership of Vicki Carson of Moon Rising Farm. This meeting was in part a follow-up to the session at the Maryland Horse Forum last August and in part a response to the American Horse Council's effort to inform the federal government of what states are doing about the unwanted horse crisis.

More importantly, for the MHC this meeting provided a way for us to address the issue that is at the core of our mission and the center of our hearts. It is also the issue that we often turn our backs on because solutions seem so far out of reach.

With the professional assistance of meeting

facilitator Mary Sue McCarthy, Vicki was able to draw out the best ideas of everyone in the room through a process that was way more fun than anyone expected. We had many of the state's most active rescues and advocates in the room, but everyone was treated with equal respect and even old ideas took on new life.

The process produced nine topic areas from which specific proposals will eventually be considered. See inset box for those topics.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 3. If you are interested in participating, contact Vicki Carson at vcarson@carsonassociates.com.

There will most likely be specific proposals for action for consideration by the Board of Directors at our August 17 Quarterly Meeting.



Core Challenges

- education
- programs
- overbreeding
- economics
- retraining
- rehoming
- data
- welfare
- euthanasia

continued...

MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Maryland Horse Council membership is open to all associations, farms, businesses and individuals. To join, please visit www.mdhorsecouncil.org.

The Maryland Horse Council is sponsored by B & D Builders, The Equiery, Farm Credit and Southern States.

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Save The Horse Farms Campaign

Nothing in politics is easy, but ask our members in Frederick and Prince George's counties how receptive their council members are to the idea of making zoning and other laws more friendly to horse farms. Prince George's County Council member Samuel H. Dean, who attended our MHC Quarterly Meeting in July, announced at the first meeting of the county's Equine Industry Task Force that he wants to make "Prince George's County the Middleburg of Maryland."

Frederick County Council members held a working session in July during which members of the new Frederick County Equine Alliance explained problems with existing regulations. Arlene Atkins of Farmers Coop of Frederick reports that the meeting was excellent and that the process of rewriting the laws is well underway.

So how about the rest of Maryland counties? That's up to you. Go to the mdhorsecouncil.org Save The Horse Farms page and find out who is your county coordinator. We also have a web listing for each county's code so that you can do your own word searches to find all horse-related laws in your county. Or contact Amy Saman at aks@fdalaw.com or Valerie Ormond at valerieormond@aol.com and report any difficulties you have had with county bureaucrats on horse farm issues. By this fall we should have enough information compiled to publish a statewide report and draw attention to our issues in every county. We also will have a model county resolution that every county should pass affirming that what we do on our horse farms is agriculture and should be treated that way by county officials. We will review and approve that resolution at our August 17 Board of Directors meeting.

Maryland Thoroughbred Racing

As of this writing, Anne Arundel County officials are once again moving forward on permits for construction of the state's largest slots casino, Maryland Live! at Arundel Mills. The county court ruled that residents cannot put the county's slots zoning law to referendum because laws that raise revenue are not subject to voter repeal.

By the time you read this, however, the Court of Appeals will most likely have either upheld this court ruling or overturned it. Only then will we really know whether an Anne Arundel County referendum will be on the November ballot asking voters whether they want to overturn the county's zoning law for slots.

If the lower court ruling is upheld the Maryland Jockey Club owners, MI Developments, Inc. of Canada (MID) and Penn National Gaming, Inc. of Pennsylvania (PNG), will have to decide how to best take advantage of the projected \$35 million in purse enhancements and \$12.5 million in racetrack renewal funds that the Arundel Mills casino is expected to

produce for racing.

If MID and PNG make a plan to revitalize Maryland racing with slots revenues, the Maryland Horse Council will work hard to support the Jockey Club's efforts to promote the sport and to maintain racing's percentage of slots revenue in the state constitution. If, however, MID follows through on past threats to close Laurel, forego racetrack renewal funding, and cut spending drastically at all Maryland tracks then our task will become monumental. The Maryland Horse Council will work with all of the organizations that represent the Maryland racing industry and the politicians who support it to save the sport through a transfer of ownership.

To view the Maryland Horse Council Survey on the Future of Maryland Thoroughbred Racing and our letter to MID and PNG, go to the Save Maryland Racing page at www.mdhorsecouncil.org.

Maryland Standardbred Racing

It was a sad day when the last horses were forced to leave Rosecroft. The track still has no new owner and the barns still stand, so there is a sliver of hope that a solution can be found. Governor O'Malley is attempting to intervene to save the track, but few people believe that the funds exist today to keep the track alive and bring back the trotters and pacers.

It is unfortunate that circumstances put the Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries at odds with each other, and that even within the Standardbred industry there was no consensus on strategy to save Rosecroft. Slots revenues are around the corner for Standardbred racing, and a revitalization might have been possible with the purse enhancements and racetrack

renewal funds that slots has promised. Ocean Downs will most likely thrive, but the loss of Rosecroft is no less than tragic and should be a lesson to all of us that we in the horse industry cannot afford anything less than to be united, organized, and strong.

September 18 Barbecue and Auction at Fair Hill Equine Therapy Center

It's time to register to attend our most fun event of the year! We are gathering at Fair Hill Equine Therapy Center where we will explore the aquapacer, equine solarium, hyperbaric chamber, and all kinds of toys we've never seen before. We will also tour the horse-friendly Fair Hill Training Center, where Michael Matz, Graham Motion, and other top Thoroughbred trainers work their magic with some 490 horses. This place is where some of the greatest horsemanship and horse care you'll ever see is practiced. We are lucky to be their guests.

It's the 25th Anniversary of the Maryland Horse Council this year, and we believe that the organization deserves some birthday presents. Dig deep

continued...

MHC Quarterly Meeting Open to All Members and Guests

Tuesday, August 17, 2010

6 p.m. Meet, Greet & Socialize!
Enjoy light food and drink while you get to know others from around the state.

7 p.m. Industry Issues & Updates

Serra Valley Farms
5641 Ridge Road
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

For more information, or to join MHC, please visit
www.mdhorsecouncil.org

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and figure out what you or your business can offer MHC for its silent auction. It's great publicity for your business and it will turn into money that we can use for all of the essential work we do to represent and promote horses in Maryland.

And if that's not enough to convince you to make the drive, come and support our Horseman of the Year. He happens to be one of our state's most prolific equine photographers and you won't want to miss the display of his work. Buy your tickets online at mdhorsecouncil.org. You'll be glad you came.

Announcing the 2010 Horseman of the Year: Bob Eldredge

Each year, we honor a professional in the Maryland horse industry who has had a long and outstanding career in the Maryland horse industry. Professions honored to date include farriers, veterinarians, trainers, saddle makers, feed store owners, hay growers, and tack store owners. By honoring a Marylander who has had a long and outstanding career in the equine industry, we hope to inspire young people that they can combine their passion for horses with their professional pursuits, and show them that it is possible to make a living in the horse world. Often, the honorees never sought fame or recognition, they just did what they did, and did it well. Frequently, they inspired or mentored young people into horse industry careers...and our 2010 Horseman of the Year did all

of this and was all of this. For many years, he was a professional artist with the beloved Maryland Horse magazine, and many Marylanders own his limited edition prints of Maryland's foxhunting territory. In addition, over the course of many decades, Bob mentored kids and young riders at his Camp Puh-tok in Monkton. Learn more about Bob in upcoming issues of *The Equiery*, and come meet him (or see him again) at our annual BBQ on September 18th!

Are You a Member?

You really should be, even if you are a member of an organization that is one of our association members. That doesn't make YOU a member.

Counting associations, we represent 30,000 people, and that sounds good when we're lobbying in Annapolis. As individual, farm, and business members, however, we only have a bit over 300 members. That means most of you reading this are being represented without paying dues. It's only \$40 for individuals, \$75 for farms, or \$100 for businesses. Go to mdhorsecouncil.org, hit the Join Now button and become one of us!

www.mdhorsecouncil.org



Maryland Horse Council Membership

P.O. Box 233 • Lisbon, MD 21765

Name: _____

Farm/Business/Association: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ County: _____

Email: _____

Membership Type	Annual	Lifetime
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400
Farm	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750
Business	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000
Association	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000

Benefits:
Newsletter • Annual Equiery subscription
E-mail alerts • MHC decal • Networking

What is your biggest concern facing the 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 _____

- Committees you would like to join:
- Executive
 - Legislative
 - Business Network
 - Save the Horse Farms
 - Horse Expo
 - Marketing Initiative
 - Equine Health & Welfare
 - Trails & Greenways
 - Day at the Races

Checks and credit cards (MasterCard / Visa) accepted. Mail to: P.O. Box 233, Lisbon, MD 21765
Payment can also be made on-line at: www.mdhorsecouncil.org/join_now.htm

Name of cardholder as it appears on the card: _____

Credit Card number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ 3-digit code: _____

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To join, please visit mdhorsecouncil.org, contact admin@mdhorsecouncil.org, or call 301-502-8929

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