

MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

From the President: January Meeting Recap



Every January we meet in the Vista Room at the State Fairgrounds in Timonium on the Thursday of the Maryland Horse World Expo. This year we had 70 people attending, and polished off six pots of chili. Then we had our meeting.

The agenda was packed, but we managed to finish five minutes before the magic hour of 9 p.m. when we all turn into alpha mares. Here is what you missed...

Secretary Chris Bricker embarrassed board members who failed to attend with the roll call.

Royce Herman reported that our finances look much better than a year ago but not as good as they will look next year. He also thanked everyone who volunteered at our Expo booth and the 30-plus vendors who were offering discounts to MHC members who wore lapel stickers.

Cheerleader Crystal Kimball encouraged everyone to buy tickets to our 2010 Horseman of the Year Celebration on January 29th at Camden Yards honoring Bob Eldridge. Then Crystal announced the 2011 Horseman of the Year, the legendary Beverly Raymond, who proceeded to stand up on her chair and bow to her adoring fans. More on that celebration later.

Maryland Horse Industry Board Chairman Jim Steele introduced the new "Rob Burk" (former MHIB Executive Director), who actually has a name and quite a reputation. Ross Peddicord proceeded to deliver a three-minute speech about the potential of the Maryland horse industry that not only made the hair on the backs of our necks stand up, but also brought the house down. We can't wait to work with this guy on finally getting our Maryland Horse Park!

Newly elected board member Erica Lancaster filled in for Valerie Ormond with a county-by-county report on our Save The Horse Farms campaign, the highlight of which was a report from Dale Clabaugh and Judy Smith on the recent zoning victories in Frederick County. It is a classic example of how horse people can change laws when they organize and speak up.

Vickie Carson announced 2011 plans for the MHC Unwanted Horse Project, and encouraged everyone to stay updated through this group's active online blog at mhcuhp.wordpress.com.

Malinda Lawrence presented an overview of the process that we face in establishing an affiliated charitable organization through which Maryland horse people could support the work of the unwanted horse project and many of the educational endeavors that we undertake. A working group is beginning to form to bring this longstanding goal to fruition.

George Maurer of Conservation Partners presented a proposal for a partnership whereby MHC would do outreach and provide funding for horse farm owners to increase their use of best management practices that would improve pastures and protect waterways. The project would be funded by Natural Resource Conservation Service if local or state

funds could be found as a match. The board authorized the Executive Committee to proceed if matching funds could be identified.

Christy Clagget presented a proposal for creation of a Maryland Horse Council Committee to Support Racing, to involve anyone interested in promoting Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing in Maryland. A motion to create this committee was unanimously approved.

Amy Samman reported that the legislative committee has been monitoring bills as they are introduced in the General Assembly and will keep a close eye on racing legislation, Sunday hunting, and ag preservation. Be prepared for legislative alerts asking everyone to contact their legislators if anything critical arises.

Ron MacNab reported for Trails and Greenways and TROT on Sunday hunting, on the need for organizations to assist with maintenance and scheduling at Woodstock Equestrian Park in Montgomery County, and various other opportunities for public access to parks in the future.

Jane Seigler announced that the next MHC Business Network meeting would be a tour of the Nutramax Laboratory, and that the last meeting with staff from New Bolton and Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center was a huge success.

Stuart Pittman presented a written report from Harry Ketts, our representative to the Maryland Farm Bureau, and the board voted to endorse the MFB legislative statement on equine issues.

And finally, President Pittman begged for the establishment of a hospitality committee to ensure that food and alcohol are in good supply at all of our quarterly meetings. Erica Lancaster and Chrissy Heard stepped up, but they need help!

Now don't you wish you had been there? Don't ever miss a Maryland Horse Council meeting again. They are NOT BORING!

83716-110311

Maryland Horse Council Quarterly Meeting

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011
6 p.m. at the
Prince George's Equestrian Center**

14900 Pennsylvania Avenue
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

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



Horseman of the Year Celebration

On January 29, over 200 people attended a truly fantastic evening at Camden Yards honoring Bob Eldredge as the Maryland Horse Council 2010 Horseman of the Year. Channel 13 News interviewed Bob and toured his Camp Puh'Tok (Monkton) in advance of the event. Orioles Vice President Lou Kousouris was our gracious host and Bob's old friends from both the camp and *The Maryland Horse* (now *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*) magazine were there to share their memories. For those of you who don't know him, Bob Eldredge is a class act.

See photos from the event in this issue (Out & About) and read about Bob Eldredge on the archives of equiquery.com.

Committee to Support Racing

As of press time the first meeting of this group was about to take place. We expect a good crowd and intend to confront any and all obstacles in the way of the revitalization of Maryland Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing. Slots revenue is finally beginning to flow, investors are interested in owning our tracks, and nothing should prevent this industry from growing.

Membership Growth

The Maryland Horse Council is growing, both in numbers and in power. We remain a grass-roots organization that is not funded, and therefore not controlled, by any government entity.

If you value what we do and want us to keep doing it, then do the right thing and become one of us!

A mere \$40 buys you an individual membership, \$75 a farm membership, or \$100 a business membership. And if you are in an association that is not already a member, make that happen as well.

Go to mdhorsecouncil.org and join online. It's no big deal but you'll feel better about yourself once you do it.

MHC Committee to Support Racing

The first meeting of this new group was February 10 at the state fairgrounds in Timonium. The twenty five members were a cross section of interested parties, including both Thoroughbred and Standardbred, breeders and trainers, owners and fans, the state, organizations that represent these various groups, and the Maryland Jockey Club.

Serious questions about strategy were argued in a constructive and civil manner. Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association attorney Alan Foreman argued forcefully and convincingly for the need to subsidize track owners regardless of who they are in the short term to keep tracks operating. Cynthia McGinnis of Thornmar Farms argued that Thoroughbred track owners seemed intent on proving that Maryland racing has no future by refusing to invest in its future. Various opinions were expressed about the purchase of Rosecroft by Penn National Gaming. Everyone agreed that this committee should pursue some very specific initiatives to bring more fans to the races.

There was consensus on the following.

1) MHC should avoid any lobbying on racing issues that is not coordinated with the organizations that represent horsemen and breeders in both Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing.

2) In concept, we support the legislation proposed by the Governor's office that allows slots money earmarked for racetrack facility renewal to be spent to subsidize track operations for a limited period of time under certain conditions.

3) Horses and horse racing have marketing potential that is not being tapped. This committee will work closely with the Maryland Horse Industry Board on efforts to market the horse and horse racing in Maryland.

continued...

www.mdhorsecouncil.org

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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- Maryland Horse Council Membership -

P.O. Box 6603, Annapolis, MD 21401



If you are not an MHC member JOIN NOW to stand with us in support of horses and horse people throughout Maryland.

We have a membership category for everyone: Individual (\$40), Farm (\$75), Business (\$100) or Association (\$100).

Visit www.mdhorsecouncil.org for details on how to join today!

The Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors

Open to All Members and Guests

January 20, 2011 • Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium

Every member association is entitled to a seat on the MHC Board of Directors. Please review this list to make sure your association is a member and to ensure active representation for your association on the MHC Board of Directors. The MHC Board of Directors, on behalf of the horse industry, make important legislative and policy decisions, and so your associations participation is critical. Farm, business and individual members elect at-large directors to represent their interests on the Board.

Officers Present: Stuart Pittman, President; Jane Seigler, Vice-President; Chris Bricker, Secretary; Royce Herman, Treasurer; Margaret Rizzo, MHC Administrator.

Directors Present:

- Dale Clabaugh
- Erica Lancaster
- Amy Samman
- Steuart Pittman
- Jane Seigler
- Judy Smith
- Crystal Kimball
- Keith Wills
- Kathleen Howe
- Judy Smith
- Gretchen Moberley
- Crystal Kimball
- Christy Clagett
- Patty Sasscer
- Steve Fulton
- Dorothy Troutman
- Doug Anderson
- Cricket Goodall
- Carrie Everly
- Crystal Kimball
- Guillermo Warley
- Elizabeth Yewell
- Ron MacNab
- Royce Herman
- Director-at-Large Individuals
- Director-at-Large Individuals
- Director-at-Large Individuals
- Director-at-Large Farms
- Director-at-Large Farms
- Director-at-Large Farms
- Director-at-Large- Businesses
- Director-at-Large -Businesses
- Days End Farm Rescue, Inc.
- Frederick County Equine Alliance
- Howard County Horse Show Association
- Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds)
- Marlborough Hunt Club
- Maryland Association for Wildlife Conservation
- Maryland Combined Training Association
- Maryland Equestrian Foundation/ Rosaryville Conservancy
- Maryland Farriers Association
- Maryland Horse Breeders Association
- Maryland Jockey Club
- Maryland Steeplechase Association
- New Market Middleton Valley Hounds
- Prince George's Equestrian Center, Show Place Arena
- Trail Riders of Today – TROT
- Tuckahoe Equestrian Center

Directors Absent:

- Amy Burk
- Mike Erskine
- Joseph Zentgraf
- Jacquelyn Cowan
- Sharon Roberts
- Deborah Rollins Frank
- Trish Gilbert
- Jim McDonald
- Nicky Ratliff
- Carrie Reed
- Kristin Wilson
- Mike Erskine
- Margaret Wilterdink
- Alan Lohman
- Felicia Hilleary
- Eileen Simpson
- David Turner
- Allison Asti
- (Vacant)
- Charlie Mess
- Carolyn Del Grosso
- Barbara Kraft
- (Vacant)
- Jane Rhoades

- Director-at-Large Individuals
- Director-at-Large Individuals
- Carroll County Equestrian Council
- Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horses
- Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association
- Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc.
- Fair Hill International, Inc.
- Graham Equestrian Center, Inc.
- Humane Society of Carroll County
- League of Maryland Horseman
- Maryland 4-H Foundation
- Maryland Association of Equine Practitioners
- Maryland Dressage Association
- Maryland Horse Shows Assoc. Rep
- Maryland Standardbred Breeders Assn.
- Maryland State Quarter Horse Association
- Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Association
- Pasadena Horse and Pony Association
- Plantation Walking Horses of MD
- Potomac Hunt Club
- Potomac Valley Dressage Association
- Ranger Foundation, Inc.
- Washington International Horse Show
- Wicomico Hunt Club

Guests and Members Present:

- Peter Anderson, Laurie Berglie, Donald Barr, Darryll Ann Buschling , Vicki Carson, James Casey, Amy Castillo, Mike Chovonec, Kitsi Christmas, Kim Clark, Kathy Coyle, Karin DeFrancis, Leslie Diamond, Inez Donmoyer, Mary Beth Friedel, Grace Fulton, Karen Fulton , Savannah Fulton, Kinko (Anne) Hackney, Georgeanne Hale, George Harmening, Win Hayward, Chrissy Keys Heard, Martha Herman, Lynda Sasscer Hill, Eric Horrell, Jerry Howe, Richard Huckerman, Jenifer Kolberg, Malinda Lawrence, Arthur Lisi, Anne Luke, Renee Luther, Carolyn MacIntosh, Janet MacNab, George Maurer, Ciara McMurtrie, Pat Miller, Paul Miller, Pegeen Morgan, E. Lee Moser, Ross Peddicord, Beverly Raymond, Bill Reightler, Debbie, Sharp, April Smith, Jim Steele, Karla Stoner, Guillermo Warley, Sean Williams,

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

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