

MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

A Message from the President



This summer will mark the beginning of my fourth and final year as president of the Maryland Horse Council. I put forth a very ambitious set of goals at the outset of my first term and am thrilled that so many people have stepped forward and delivered.

We have an Unwanted Horse Project, a Maryland Fund For Horses, a Political Action Committee, a Business Network, a Save The Horse Farms Campaign, a Farm Stewardship Committee, a Trails and Greenways Committee led by TROT, a Committee to Support Racing, and a very successful Legislative Committee that has passed landmark bills that we are reaping the benefits of in our counties and at the MD Horse Industry Board. We also have an administrative team at Mythic Landing Enterprises, led by Margaret Rizzo, that truly believes in growth and is committed to our cause.

The Maryland Horse Council is the envy of Horse Councils across the country, because we get things done.

I still worry about our future.

This organization will not continue on its path of growth if the majority of people in the Maryland horse community continue to believe that somebody else's dues money will cover our costs. Being a member of one of our Association members is not enough. Associations pay \$100 per year even if they have thousands of members. If those members do not become either Individual (\$40), Farm (\$75), or Business (\$100) members themselves, the Maryland Horse Council goes broke. If we go broke, we return to the days of being all-volunteer and we operate more like a club. If, however, you and your friends join, we become one of the most powerful lobbies in Annapolis, and we serve our members like they have never been served before. That's how it works.

Joining takes just a click of a mouse button, or a swipe on your phone. We will be looking for your name on the membership list at our next meeting.

- Stuart Pittman

Farm Stewardship Committee ... by Jane Thery

The Farm Stewardship Committee was formed in 2011 in recognition of the horse community's role in preserving and protecting open space and environmentally sound farm management in Maryland. Healthy pastures and hay fields are top performers in absorbing rainwater runoff, productively using nutrients and keeping waterways from polluting the Chesapeake Bay. The horse community has a growing interest in implementing best practices in farm and land management and in "going

green." The Farm Stewardship Committee's initial activities are focused on helping to link horse farm owners and managers with the technical assistance, educational resources and financing available to upgrade their farms in terms of eliminating erosion, protecting streams and appropriately handling manure. About 1/4 of Maryland's agricultural land is home to approximately 80,000 horses. The horse industry has many characteristics that are distinct from production of other agricultural products. The Maryland Horse Council Farm Stewardship Committee aims to give the horse community a more decisive voice in the state's agricultural policy discussion, to help meet the needs of farm owners and managers for technical and financial assistance, and to highlight the fact that many of our horse farms are great examples of how to contribute to a healthy and beautiful environment.

For more information and to get involved, please contact the committee Chair, Jane Thery: theryjane@gmail.com.

Save the Horse Farms ... by Valerie Ormond

The Save the Horse Farms Committee is pleased to announce it received a grant from the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) to assist in documenting the equine-related planning and zoning laws in each Maryland county. To assist in this endeavor, Kathleen J.P. Tabor, Esquire will be conducting research by contacting each county's planning and zoning offices to fully develop the listing. As many of you know, Kathleen co-authored *Maryland Equine Law, A Legal Guide to Horse Ownership & Activities* (Go Dutch Publishing, LLC, 2011) with Jan I. Berlage, Esquire, so she is the perfect person to be working on this effort, which will benefit many in the Maryland horse industry. Please feel free to contact Kathleen if you have pertinent data to assist in her research

efforts. The Law Office of Kathleen JP Tabor, LLC is available via phone at 443-454-2163, or via e-mail at ktaborlaw@aol.com.

Success in Anne Arundel County! On March 19th, the Anne Arundel County Council passed the final reading on Bill 1-12, exempting most agricultural buildings from the requirement that they obtain building permits. In addition to passing the bill, the council voted in favor of an amendment that removes the 12,000 square foot size limitation on exempt buildings. The Anne Arundel County STHF Committee would like to thank the following individuals for their support of this effort: County Executive John Leopold, Councilman Jerry Walker, David Cross of R and D Cross in Brandywine, and Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau President Jeff Griffith and Vice President Milly Welsh. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this effort, which began in June. The next step is to address the issue of grading permits and the role of Soil Conservation District staff versus the role of the Department of Inspections and Permits on Anne Arundel County farms. The Committee plans a meeting of state and county officials on that topic soon. Stay tuned.

Maryland Horse Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Prince George's Equestrian Center

14900 Pennsylvania Ave
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Reception at 6 p.m.

sponsored by King Construction

Meeting at 7 p.m. All are welcomed!

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

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Political Action Committee

The Horse Council Political Action Committee (PAC) Board of Directors held its first meeting on February 20th. At the meeting, the by-laws of the PAC were approved and the Board reviewed the donations to date. The account currently holds a balance of \$1,300. The Board also approved the first round of donations. Maryland is one of a number of states that ban all political donations during the political session, which had not ended as of the time of this update. The donations will be announced in the next PAC update. Each dollar donated to the PAC is another opportunity for the horse community to be recognized in Annapolis, so please consider doing what you can to protect what we love.

Maryland Fund For Horses Announces *Safe & Sound: A Resource Guide for Horse Owners & Prospective Owners*



Maryland Fund For Horses will be launching a new free resource guide for equine owners and prospective owners. The booklet, to be updated annually, contains information about the best resources available in print and available in public libraries, online and offered by Maryland equine organizations. For horse owners who need information and don't know exactly where to find it, this booklet will be invaluable. It recommends resources to answer questions like:

“I'm thinking of buying a horse. What should I consider, and how much will it cost?” ... “Where can I find straightforward advice about feeding, routine care and pasture management?” ... “How do I check my horse's vital signs, and how will I know if I should call the vet?” ... “Where can I go locally to get hands-on help with my horse management questions?” ... “What if I can't keep my horse anymore?”

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Maryland Fund For Horses is publishing *Safe & Sound* to celebrate the launch of Maryland Responsible Horse Ownership Week, May 14-20, 2012. The booklet will be available at no charge in your local feed store, tack store, and from your veterinarian and farrier.

Help Maryland Fund For Horses keep working for the welfare of Maryland's equines, providing programs, resources and education about responsible horse ownership and land stewardship. Volunteer, Sponsor or Donate Today!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Pre-event and on-site event volunteers are needed for Responsible Horse Ownership Week, May 14-20, 2012, and the Good To Geld stallion gelding clinic in December 2012.

Website Administration - 2-3 hrs. per month, OR Website Development - if you work with php, javascript and MySQL, and you're comfortable customizing WordPress, we need you! Approximately 3-4 hrs. per month.

Enjoy working with people? Organized and detail-oriented? You could be our volunteer coordinator! We have a large and growing volunteer base, and we need someone to help us keep our volunteers engaged, fulfilled and happy!

Contact Vicki Carson at info@mdfundforhorses.org regarding any of the above volunteer opportunities

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Sponsors are urgently needed for MFFH's inaugural booklet “*Safe & Sound: A Resource Guide for Horse Owners and Prospective Horse Owners*”. The booklet launch will coincide with Maryland Responsible Horse Ownership Week, May 14-20, 2012. Sponsor logos and information will be included with all Maryland Responsible Horse Ownership materials. Sponsorships begin at \$200.

Sponsor Maryland's Good To Geld program. Contribute to reducing

equine overpopulation by sponsoring our gelding clinics and gelding voucher programs for horse owners in need.

Contact info@mdfundforhorses.org for more information about the above sponsorship opportunities

Donate:

On Facebook: visit the Maryland Fund For Horses page. “Like” us, and click the Donate tab.

Via PayPal at any of these links:

www.mdunwantedhorse.org, www.mdfundforhorses.org
http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/md_fund_for_horses.htm

By mail: Make checks payable to: Maryland Fund For Horses, PO Box 141, Damascus, MD 20872.

Legislative Report ... by Jane Seigler

At midnight on April 9, the Maryland General Assembly ended its 2012 session - without enacting an apparent compromise that would have balanced the budget through both spending cuts and revenue increases. This means that the so-called “Doomsday Budget,” which is balanced through deep cuts in expenditures, will go into effect on July 1, unless a special session of the General Assembly is convened to try again. A Special Session is a virtual certainty but, as of this writing, when it will convene and whether it will be confined to just budget issues is still up in the air.

In any event, the legislature did manage to dispose of a number of legislative issues of interest to the Maryland equine community. Following is a summary of the outcomes of several proposed pieces of legislation that we have been following. For a more complete description of these bills, see the MD Horse Council's legislative Blogpost of March 6: <http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/legislative.htm>.

SB 108 (making clarifying changes to the stable license law) and HB 680 (requiring the state to incorporate education about sustainable ag into science curricula) passed both houses of the General Assembly. In addition, Sunday hunting bills in Dorchester and Caroline (SB 105/HB 114 & SB 390/HB 129), Harford (SB 346/HB 321), Cecil (HB 877), and Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties (HB 1431) passed. Only the PG County bill (HB 809) failed to move.

On the racing side, SB 49 (making certain changes to the Maryland-Bred Race Fund) and SB 794/HB947 (eliminating the restriction on the use of Purse Dedication Account funds for operating expenses at Ocean Downs and Rosecroft through 2015) were passed by both houses.

Bills that failed to emerge successfully include HB 912 (changing “owner” to “guardian” in certain laws applying to dogs); SB 445/HB 336 and SB 203/HB 484 (giving courts the power to order transfer ownership of confiscated animals, and requiring original owners to pay costs in removing and caring for confiscated animals after conviction of certain crimes of abuse, neglect or cruelty); HB 376 (redirecting slots revenue away from racing industry and to school construction); SB 15 (requiring a study of the mission and operations of the Show Place Arena at the PG Equestrian Center); SB 301/HB 1020 (establishment of a registry of convicted animal abusers).

A number of changes to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation 112 (appraisals) were enacted.

There were a few bills of interest relating to farm best management practices and state cost share programs. HB 1303 (doubling from program (MALPF) - SB 129 (easements), SB 148 (lot releases), SB \$100,000 to \$200,000 per practice the maximum amount of state cost sharing for water pollution control projects such as manure storage structures, steam fencing and crossings, etc.) passed both houses. This will be especially helpful as farmers are asked to install more best management practices to

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meet Watershed Implementation Plan goals. HB 1404 was enacted, moving the Animal Waste Technology Fund from the Dept. of Business and Economic Development to the Department of Agriculture. This fund is intended to research, develop and market projects to reduce the amount of nutrients in animal waste, or develop alternative waste management strategies. Unfortunately, SB 976/HB 1309, which would have expanded the list of tax-deductible equipment purchases under the subtraction modification law to include manure spreaders and other nutrient application equipment, failed to pass.

However, a number of bills related to manure management regulations and the Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration were unsuccessful: SB 330 (prohibited new regulations to mandate action on farms until other watershed states equal Maryland's performance so far); SB 594 (prohibiting winter application of animal manure and biosolids); SB 822/HB 487 (prohibiting watershed implementation mandates on local jurisdictions unless funding from state or federal sources would sup-

port); SB 823/ HB 486 (requiring the state to develop and rank a list of best management practices for watershed implementation).

However, SB 118 (allowing the state to add sediment to its existing nutrient credit program) passed both houses.

Of general interest: the Governor's Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act (SB 236/HB 445) (related to the implementation of PlanMaryland) was enacted with amendments that leave final control in the hands of the local jurisdictions. The Family Farm Preservation Act of 2012 (SB 294/HB 444) was also enacted. This exempts up to \$5 million dollars of the value of a farm from the state estate tax when it will remain in agricultural use for at least 10 years. It also reduces the rate for property exceeding \$5 million from the current 16% to 5%.

The "Flush Tax" was doubled from \$30 to \$60, but only for users who discharge into the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. But the proposed increase in the Gas Tax (SB 971/ HB 1302) failed.

MHC: Who We Are

Maryland Horse Council Association Members

The MHC represents 30,000 Maryland horse people from individuals, farms, businesses, and the following associations:

Carroll County Equestrian Council	Marlborough Hunt Club	Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Assn.
Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club	Maryland 4-H Program	My Lady's Manor Driving Club, Inc.
Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Assn.	Maryland Assn. for Wildlife Conservation	New Market Middletown Valley Hounds
Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc.	Maryland Combined Training Assn.	Pasadena Horse and Pony Assoc.
Equestrian Partners in Conservation	Maryland Draft Horse & Mule Assn.	Plantation Walking Horses of Maryland
Equine Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc.	Maryland Equestrian Club	Potomac Hunt Club
Fair Hill International, Inc.	Maryland Equestrian Foundation	Potomac Valley Dressage Assn.
Frederick County Equine Alliance	Maryland Farriers Association	Preserve Harness Racing at Rosecroft
Freedom Hill Horse Rescue	Maryland Horse Breeders Assn.	Reality Inn Farm
Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue Soc.	Maryland Jockey Club	The Humane Society of the U.S.
Graham Equestrian Center, Inc.	Maryland Standardbred Breeders Assn.	TROT - Trail Riders of Today
Halo's Haven Rescue	Maryland Steeplechase Association	Tuckahoe Equestrian Center
Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds	MD Assn. of Equine Practitioners	Washington International Horse Show
Humane Society of Carroll County	MD State Quarter Horse Assn.	Wicomico Hunt Club

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and five Directors elected by the Board. The Executive Committee executes the business, policy and priorities established by the Board, and in the course thereof has authority to exercise all those powers and duties of the Board, not specifically reserved to the Board by the By-laws. A written report on Executive Committee meetings is available to all the Directors. The Executive Committee may appoint additional non-voting, advisory members from time to time in its discretion.

President Steuart Pittman, Jr. 410-798-0503 Fx: 410-507-3351 dodonfarm@verizon.net	Vice President Jane Seigler 301-774-3756 seigler.jane@gmail.com	Treasurer Royce Herman 410-758-2081 Fx: 410-758-4760 raherman1@verizon.net	Secretary Christine Bricker 410-788-3987 Fx: 410-765-1485 christine.bricker@ngc.com
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Directors elected to serve on the Executive Committee:

Steve Fulton <i>(Director-at-Large for Farms; Full Moon Farm)</i> 410-795-8371 Fx: 410-795-0617 fullmoonfarm@hughes.net	Christy Clagett <i>(Marlborough Hunt Club)</i> 410-703-7998 Fx: 410-798-7403 larkinghill@aol.com	Crystal Brumme Kimball <i>(MSA, HCIBH and Director-at-Large for Businesses; The Equiery)</i> 410-489-7826 crystal@equiery.com	Ron MacNab <i>(Trail Riders of Today)</i> 301-622-4157 rmacnab@comcast.net	Pete Radue <i>(MAEP and Director at Large for Businesses; Damascus Equine Associates)</i> 301-829-2170 Fx: 301-829-4953 raduedvm@aol.com
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Maryland Horse Council

Margaret Rizzo, Association Manager | P.O. Box 141, Damascus, MD 20872 | 301-502-8929 | admin@mdhorsecouncil.org

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

Maryland Horse Council membership is open to all associations, farms, businesses and individuals. To join, please visit mdhorsecouncil.org, contact admin@mdhorsecouncil.org, or call 301-502-8929. The Maryland Horse Council is sponsored by B & D Builders, The Equiery, Farm Credit and Southern States.

