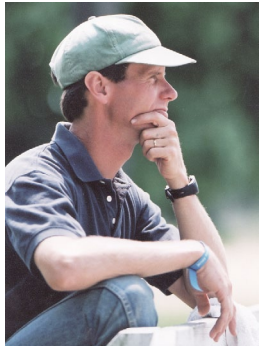


MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org



A Message from the President



At a recent meeting of my county's Farm Bureau, there was a discussion about lack of meeting attendance. Somebody commented that all organizations are struggling with poor turnout. I spoke up and told them that Maryland Horse Council regularly pulls 80 to 100 to its quarterly meetings and just had over 150 to its annual barbecue. I also pointed out that our county horse council drew 65 when we met about building and grading permit abuse by our county government.

I told them our secret. I said that we have identified issues that affect our members and our industry, and we have strategically selected battles that we can win. People want to be a part of an organization that is ambitious and effective. If it isn't growing, it's dying.

In case you are one of those horse people who has for some reason failed to join the Maryland Horse Council and does not receive our emails, or has not been to our meetings, or has not "liked" us on Facebook, here are a few of the things you've been missing.

- Thanks to the efforts of our new Farm Stewardship Committee under the leadership of Jane Thery, we are now at the forefront of efforts to promote good environmental stewardship and influence environmental laws and regulations. We have made our friends at MDA uncomfortable at times, but they are listening to us.
- Our members at the county level have reformed zoning and ag building laws to encourage horse farms in some counties, and we are about to publish a compilation of these laws in all counties that has been written by Kathleen Tabor, author of Maryland Equine Law.
- Our Unwanted Horse Committee has created a new organization, The Maryland Fund For Horses, which coordinated Maryland Responsible Horse Ownership Week and is about to conduct its first Gelding Clinic.
- The Maryland Horse Industry Board has undertaken a massive marketing campaign, the first part of which is the comprehensive new Stable Directory. MHIB's ability to expand its work is a direct result of the successful lobbying by Maryland Horse Council to triple its funding and separate its budget from the state's general fund.

There is also the new Horse Council PAC, the Youth Committee, the Legislative Committee's broad reach, the Business Network's

fascinating series of events, the annual Horseman of the Year Celebration, the Annual Barbecue, the Trails and Greenways Committee, the Committee to Support Racing, and our participation in the Coalition of State Horse Councils through the American Horse Council.

We are lucky to have people willing to give up their time and take on leadership responsibilities to grow this organization. We are also lucky to have a contract with Margaret Rizzo's company Mythic Landing Enterprises to handle our event planning, administrative duties, web site, bookkeeping, and social media.

Many of you reading this in *The Equiry* are pleased that we are so active, but are not yet members. Unlike the association that registers your horses, or the organization that oversees the sport you ride in, we cannot require you to join. MHC membership is voluntary. For most of you it is also affordable. Forty dollars per year for an individual,

\$75 for a farm, or \$100 for a business is an investment that I can't imagine not making. This is our trade association, our grassroots political organization, and our community association. Please, click through at www.mdhorsecouncil.org/join.htm and get signed up now.

We look forward to seeing you at the next Quarterly meeting in Annapolis on November 13.

- *Steuart Pittman*

Legislative and Regulatory Update - *Jane Seigler*

On October 5, 2012, the MD Department of Agriculture announced that it is making final its proposed changes to the manure management regulations. The final version is essentially unchanged from the version that was published for comment on June 29, 2012. The changes, which for horse farm owners primarily affect the timing of manure spreading and control of stream access and runoff into streams, went into effect on October 15, 2012. A copy of the final regulations, and a Frequently Asked Questions document are available on MDA's website: www.mda.md.gov. For more information and analysis, see the Legislative page on MHC's website: www.mdhorsecouncil.org/legislative.htm

It's almost time for the next session of the Maryland Legislature to get underway in Annapolis. The session opens in mid-January and lasts through mid-April, but some pieces of proposed legislation are already being drafted and pre-filed. MHC endeavors to monitor all bills introduced throughout the session, to track anything of interest to

Maryland Horse Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Miller Senate Office Bldg

11 Bladen Street | Annapolis MD, 21041

4 pm: Legislative tour by Ho. Co. Delegate and Deputy Major Whip Guy Guzzone

6 pm: Reception

7 pm: Meeting - All are welcomed!

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

MHC Update

Legislative and Regulatory Update - Jane Seigler (cont'd) ...

horse folks. Be sure to go to www.mdhorsecouncil.org/legislative.htm and subscribe to our legislative blog to receive the latest updates on items of interest. One thing that may be on the horizon is a change to the legal standard applying to lawsuits alleging negligence. For centuries, Maryland courts have applied a "contributory negligence" standard, which completely blocks recovery by someone who sues alleging negligence if the injured party contributed in any way or in any amount to his own injury. This standard has been very effective in preventing damage awards against horse owners and horse business operators. In a case currently pending in the MD Court of Appeals, the court has indicated that it may be willing to adopt the less strict "Comparative Negligence" standard for such cases, which would open the door for damage awards even in cases where the injured party is in part responsible for his own injuries. If the Court does issue a ruling adopting the new standard, it is likely that legislation will be introduced in Annapolis to reverse the Court and go back to the old standard. Stay tuned!

Horse Council PAC - Win Hayward

The Horse Council Political Action Committee (PAC) has been extremely active rounding out its first full year of operation. Organized through the leadership of the MHC Executive Committee in the late summer of 2011, the PAC is now expanding its influence in support of its mission to "promote the Maryland equine industry to the State government and the general public."

Most significantly, the PAC made financial transfers (donations) to candidate committees of eight members of the Maryland General Assembly who hold leadership positions that directly impact the horse industry. These include the Majority and Minority Leaders in the State Senate and House, as well as the Chairs of the Senate Finance and Education Health and Environmental Affairs committees and the House Ways and Means and Environmental Matters committees. This first round of transfers was not intended to reference policy issues, but was a way of broadly demonstrating the commitment to our mission.

The PAC couldn't make such transfers without the generous donations it's received from the equine community. So far in this campaign reporting year, the PAC has received over \$900 in donations. Most enjoyably, the PAC raised \$180 with a 50/50 raffle at the MHC annual barbeque. Thanks to all who contributed, these funds will be the foundation of future efforts to ensure that equine interests get full representation on issues of concern to the horse community.

Business Network - Jane Seigler

Once again, MHC Business and Farm members are enjoying some great educational and networking events. On August 30 we toured the fabulous facilities of Select Breeder Services in Chesapeake City.

With over 3,000 registered stallions, SBS is the world's largest provider of cooled and frozen semen. The new world headquarters (built by MHC sponsor B&D Builders) offers state-of-the-art technologies and laboratories for collection and freezing.



Farm and Business members tour the SBS facility



After the tour, and over a delicious lunch sponsored by Farm Family and Hay Huts, Business Network members heard an eye opening discussion of a recent lawsuit in which a Maryland court assessed \$270,000 in damages against a stable owner for wrongly classifying an employee as an independent contractor. The lawyer who represented the winning plaintiff was on hand, along with MHC member and attorney Kathleen Tabor, to discuss the details of the case and the general standards that are used to determine when someone is an employee, and therefore subject to payroll taxes and eligible for worker's compensation insurance coverage. It is important to note that it is irrelevant that the worker has agreed (even in writing) to be called an independent contractor. The standards are applied objectively to the facts of the relationship, including such things as the degree of control the employer has over the work, hours, tools, etc. of the worker.



Business Network members enjoy a lunch and discussion about a recent lawsuit concerning standards used to determine whether someone is an employee



Select Breeder Services Headquarters

Next up on the Business Network schedule is a roundtable discussion of business and financial planning for the horse business and farm operator. With a panel of business, financial and legal experts, we'll focus the discussion on three phases of the equestrian enterprise cycle of life: start up, maintaining, and winding down/succession. We will discuss business practice and financial planning aspects of each of these cycles, while wrapping into them personal considerations, family/partnership dynamics, etc. Should be an interesting and thought provoking afternoon. Watch for more details as the event - in late January or early February - approaches. Venue TBD.

MHC Update (con'd)**Farm Stewardship Second Meeting, October 8, 2012** - Jane Thery

It was a chilly Autumn afternoon at beautiful Edgewood Farm, the home of Steve and Bonnie Darcey. Steve is a conservation engineer with the Prince George's Soil Conservation District and Bonnie is an accomplished show hunter equestrienne.

Our group of about 20 gathered in the indoor arena. Jane Thery, Chair of the MHC Farm Stewardship Committee, opened the meeting with thanks to the Darceys for hosting the meeting, and a round of introductions of those present. The group ranged from farm management experts to those looking for information on the latest environmentally-sound horse farm management ideas.

Steve Darcey began his farm tour with thanks to the event sponsors, Colonial Farm Credit and the Prince George's Soil Conservation District. The group clambered up onto his hay wagon for the tour. The first stop was to see a drainage system and row of warm-weather grasses. The drainage system included an underground pipe, plantings to hold the soil, and rubble to protect from erosion. As Darcey said, the point of the system is to "wear out the water" by running it around until it slows way down. This is an essential element of keeping sediment and nutrients out of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The grasses are planted to improve wildlife habitat and hold the soil. Both of these farm improvements received significant funding from state and local programs. The second stop was at the composting area. Darcey composts the manure and bedding from his own horse operation and hauls in horse manure from about ten nearby farms. The compost is turned regularly, situated well away from water courses, and is sold in bulk, primarily as potting soil.

On returning to the indoor, Gerald Talbert, Project Leader of the Maryland Farm Stewardship, Certification and Assessment Program (FSCAP), explained the process of farm certification, which includes having a nutrient management plan, a conservation plan, and meeting all state and county requirements for nutrient management. He noted that both the farm community and the environmental community support the program. To date, there are four certified horse farms, with several others in the process of assessment.

Eileen Beard, the Maryland Department of Agriculture Equine Specialist, explained that she and her colleagues at the Soil Conservation District offices are ready to help horse farms review their farm stewardship needs, provide technical assistance at no cost, and identify state and federal sources of financing. She emphasized that the Soil Conservation District is not an enforcement authority, and that their mission is to help and support farmers.

Jane Seigler, Vice President of the Maryland Horse Council, gave an update on the Maryland nutrient management regulations, noting that input from the horse community did make the final regulations more user-friendly to horse farms. The regulations include setbacks to keep livestock and manure spreading away from streams, keeping manure stacks away from waterways and limiting manure spreading.

Amy Burk, Maryland Horse Council Farm Stewardship Committee Vice Chair and University of Maryland Equine Specialist, provided information on the university pasture management project and the fact sheets produced by the Maryland Department of Agriculture Horse Outreach Workshop (HOW) on topics ranging from composting to horse health.

Information on the winter meeting of the MHC Farm Stewardship Committee meeting will be forthcoming. Any questions? Contact Jane Thery, Committee Chair, at theryjane@gmail.com.

New Membership Category

At our Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, August 21st, The Board of Directors adopted a proposal to add a new membership category: "Charity and Foundation." This category was created to acknowledge the organizational status of many of our non-profit members who do not fit easily into the Business, Farm or Individual categories; but who also do not have voting membership, as required to qualify for the Association category. The Charity and Foundation category will have a reduced membership fee, and will be entitled to the same benefits as Business and Farm members. The new membership category goes into effect immediately for new members; and for current members, with renewals for the 2013 fiscal year (7/1/13 - 6/30/14).

Stay Connected - Margaret Rizzo

Don't forget that there are several ways to stay up-to-date with the Maryland Horse Council. All events can be found on our website and Facebook page. And important news and topics are discussed on our blogs. Be sure to 'Like' or 'Follow' our social media outlets. And most importantly, be sure to participate! We welcome (and encourage) comments and discussions. If we don't see you at a coming event, we hope to see you online.

**Facebook page**<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maryland-Horse-Council/295404364448>**Legislative Blog**<http://mhc-legislative.blogspot.com/>**Unwanted Horse Project Blog**<http://mhcuhp.wordpress.com/>**Horse Health Blog**<http://mhc-horsehealth.blogspot.com/>**Farm Stewardship Blog**<http://mhc-farmstewardship.blogspot.com/>

MHC Update (con'd)



Maryland Horse Council Membership

PO Box 141 • Damascus, MD 20872

Name: _____

Name of Farm/Bus./Assn.: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ County: _____

Email: _____

Check membership type & duration

Membership	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 Member Decal • Networking

Checks and credit cards (MasterCard / Visa) accepted. Mail to: PO Box 141, Damascus, MD 20872

Payment can also be made online at: www.mdhorsecouncil.org/join.htm

Name of cardholder as it appears on card: _____

Credit Card number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Sec. Code: _____

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
Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club
Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Assn.
Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc.
Equestrian Partners in Conservation (EPIC)
Equine Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc.
Fair Hill International, Inc.
Frederick County Equine Alliance
Freedom Hill Horse Rescue
Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue Society
Graham Equestrian Center, Inc.
Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds

Humane Society of Carroll County
Marlborough Hunt Club
Maryland 4-H Program
Maryland Assn. for Wildlife Conservation
Maryland Draft Horse & Mule Assn.
Maryland Equestrian Club
Maryland Equestrian Foundation
Maryland Farriers Association
Maryland Horse Breeders Assn.
Maryland Jockey Club
Maryland Standardbred Breeders Assn.
Maryland Steeplechase Assn.

Maryland State Quarter Horse Assn.
Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Assn.
My Lady's Manor Driving Club, Inc.
New Market Middletown Valley Hounds
Plantation Walking Horses of Maryland
Potomac Hunt Club
The Humane Society
The Humane Society of the United States
TROT - Trail Riders of Today
Tuckahoe Equestrian Center
Washington International Horse Show
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 raheman1@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:

Crystal Brumme Kimball (MSA, HCIBH and Director-at-Large for Businesses; The Equiery) 410-489-7826 crystal@equiery.com	Dale Clabaugh (Director-at-Large for Individuals) 301-898-9560 dale.clabaugh@gmail.com	Christy Clagett (Marlborough Hunt Club) 410-703-7998 Fx: 410-798-7403 larkinghill@aol.com	Pete Radue (MAEP and Director at Large for Businesses; Damascus Equine Associates) 301-829-2170 Fx: 301-829-4953 raduedvm@aol.com	Judy Smith (Director-at-Large for Farms; Good Friday Farm) 301-662-2532 Fx: 301-865-1013 goodfridayfarm@msn.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.