



July 2015

## President's Letter

Jane Seigler

*"Summertime, and the livin' is easy"*

Well it may be for some, but the Maryland Horse Council has been hard at work. Here are just some of the things we have been working on.

### My Maryland Horse Festival

Along with the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) and the Maryland Horse Breeders Association (MHBA), MHC is organizing the first My Maryland Horse Festival, which will run all 11 days of the State Fair, Aug. 28 – Sept. 7, at the State Fairgrounds in Timonium. The My Maryland Horse Festival will have four major components:

1. Horse Show Ring: 11 days of horse shows, breed shows, rodeos, horse pulling contests, etc.

2. Horse Races: 7 days of Thoroughbred racing

3. *My Maryland Horseland: MHC, MHIB, and MHBA, with assistance from many horse industry organizations and individuals, will organize and run 11 days [Aug. 28-30, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Aug. 31-Sept. 3, Noon-9 p.m.; Sept. 4-7, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.] of activities in a 60' x 90' tent and two round pens set up between Kiddie Land and the race-track grandstand. There will be horse demos, mini riding lessons, tours of the racetrack on racing days, crafts featuring stick horses, other activities for kids, booths by industry organizations, and more. Volunteers will be needed to help*

*with all these activities! Volunteers will receive passes and parking.*

4. Infield - My Maryland Horse Festival: 2 days of infield fun [Sept. 1-2, 4-8:30 p.m.]—horse demos, carriage rides, parade of foxhounds, polo, preview of Retired Racehorse Makeover, etc.—PLUS Balloon Glow, food trucks, bluegrass and jazz music, and a beer and wine garden.

Mark your calendars for at least a few trips to Timonium for the State Fair's first My Maryland Horseland and My Maryland Horse Festival.

**And don't forget, if you can help out at the Horse Land tent, please contact Dale Clabaugh at 301-606-4617 or [dale.clabaugh@gmail.com](mailto:dale.clabaugh@gmail.com).**

### Day at the Races

On May 31st, MHC members and friends enjoyed another great Day at the Races at Pimlico. Organized and led by the indomitable Christy Clagett, we had a tour of one of the stakes barns, the Paddock, and the Winner's Circle. We were then treated to a fantas-

tic brunch spread, accompanied by mimosas, and heard from some great speakers, including a track vet, a jockey, a trainer, and a handicapping expert. Even Sal Sinatra, Vice President and General Manager of the Maryland Jockey Club, stopped in to say hello and answer questions about the future of the Preakness. The fifth race was named for MHC, and a group of us were able to go down to the paddock for the saddling, watched the race from the Winner's Circle, and had our pictures taken with the winning jockey. What a great day! We are planning a Day at the Polo Grounds for later this year.

Stay tuned!



MHC member Guillermo Warley with his sons Michael and Alex



photo credit Kirsten Lagerquist

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### Thank You to Our Sponsors

MHC is thrilled to announce the sponsorship support of two new sponsors: Rosecroft Raceway/ Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association (Gold Sponsors) and Days End Farm Horse Rescue (Bronze Sponsor). Thanks to the wonderful support of these and other sponsors: B&D Builders, The Equiry and Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, MHC's work and impact just keeps getting broader and deeper!



### Hails and Farewells

I want to personally welcome Neil Agate as the new Vice President of MHC. Neil is the principal of Four Gates, LLC, a business and technology services firm. He is a former board member and co-chair

of the British American Business Association communications committee, a founding member of the Capitol Polo Club in Poolesville, and an avid polo player. He serves as the announcer for the annual Green Cup of Polo tournament that serves as a benefit for Equestrian Partners in Conservation (EPIC) as well as other nonprofit organizations. Originally from England, Neil has lived with his wife, Kathy, and two daughters in Darnestown for the last 20 years. Neil has already been a great help to MHC through his technology skills, and we look forward to his wise counsel on many matters. I want to thank Dr. Pete Radue for his service for the last two years as Vice President. We will miss his quiet, thoughtful insight into so many of our debates, discussions and decision making.

Welcome back to our returning members of the Executive Committee: Chris Bricker, Royce Herman, and Steuart Pittman, and many, many thanks to our departing members Stephen Fulton and Crystal Brumme Kimball. (Although Crystal is staying on as a non-voting Advisory/Ex Officio Member - her "Officio-ness" owing to the fact that she is our indispensable and irreplaceable institutional memory!)

### MHC 30th Anniversary Barbeque

2015 is MHC's 30th Anniversary - can you believe it?!! To celebrate, we are planning an extra-special BBQ/Anniversary Party on September 12th at the beautiful Caves Farm in Owings Mills. In addition to the usual great food, live music, good company, and fabulous silent auction, we have some great entertainment plans in the works.

## Maryland Horse Council Meeting

Quarterly Meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>

Second Floor Board Room  
Frederick Fairgrounds  
797 E. Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD

6pm: Reception  
7pm: Meeting  
all are welcomed!

### Highlights for Meeting:

Big Plans for the My Maryland Horse Festival at the State Fair

Status of the Maryland Horse Park system plans

Low-interest loan and rural business development programs available through MARBIDCO

Plans for MHC's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

For more information, or to join MHC, please visit [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org)

Stay tuned for more details! If you would like to donate to the silent auction, please contact us at [admin@mdhorsecouncil.org](mailto:admin@mdhorsecouncil.org).

Happy riding!

*Jane Seigler*

## Farm Stewardship Spring Meeting Report from Jane Thery

Natalie DiBerardini, the manager at Hilltop Farm, graciously welcomed our group in the visitors lounge overlooking their magnificent indoor arena. Gerald Talbert, the program director for the Farm Stewardship Assessment and Certification Program (FSCAP), gave us an update on the program's progress. They recently signed up the one hundredth Maryland farm into the program. Twenty-six horse farms are in the program now. In addition to recognition as a quality managed farm, the FSCAP certified farms receive the benefit of being given priority to participate in Farm Stewardship cost sharing programs such as funding for planting pollinator habitats.

The group discussed the status of the Agriculture Certainty Program and the nutrient trading program and concluded that neither of these two programs seems to be a good fit for our horse farms. Jane Seigler, President of the Maryland Horse Council, reported that there were no significant legislative issues for farm stewardship out of the recent Maryland legislative session. However, she suggested meeting the new administration's officials who manage agricultural issues for the state.

One important conclusion of the meeting was that the demand for upgrading horse farm stewardship through the FSCAP program is rising, putting demands on the Soil Conservation District officials in charge of assisting with nutrient management plans and conservation plans. We discussed options for the Maryland Horse Council to raise this issue in the Maryland legislature to promote more resources for equine specialists in the soil conservation districts.



photo credit Hilltop Farm

The next farm Stewardship Committee meeting will be at Per-simmon Tree Farm and hosted by Carolyn Krome. The date is Wednesday, July 15th at 6:00 pm. The focus of the meeting will be a review of cost sharing programs available for advanced farm stewardship initiatives such as improving wildlife habitat.

Jane Thery, the Farm Stewardship chair, is looking for candidates to serve as vice chair of the committee. She is looking for someone to assist in organizing the meet-

ings, someone who could chair an occasional meeting and research options for meeting speakers and activities. If you would like to get involved in the important work of this committee, please contact Jane Thery at [theyjane@gmail.com](mailto:theyjane@gmail.com) or 202-527-2145.

Thank you again to Hilltop Farm, Farm Manager Natalie DiBerardini, Gerald Talbert, and Jane Seigler, as well as the meeting participants for a successful Spring Farm Stewardship meeting.



One common bond ... the Horse. One common voice ... Maryland Horse Council.

# Maryland Horse Council Membership Form

**Membership Type:** *(check your membership type/amount)*

	Annual	3-Year	5-Year	Lifetime	Total
ASSOCIATION:	_____ \$100	_____ \$300	_____ \$500	_____ \$1,000	_____ \$
BUSINESS:	_____ \$100	_____ \$285	_____ \$475	_____ \$1,000	_____ \$
FARM:	_____ \$75	_____ \$215	_____ \$355	_____ \$750	_____ \$
CHARITY & FOUNDATION:	_____ \$75	_____ \$215	_____ \$355	_____ \$750	_____ \$
INDIVIDUAL:	_____ \$40	_____ \$105	_____ \$175	_____ \$400	_____ \$
YOUTH:	_____ \$5	<i>Date of Birth:</i> _____			_____ \$

**Donations:** *(if you would like to make a donation to one of our funds, please write in amount(s) below)*

Political Action Committee:	_____ \$	_____	_____	_____	_____ \$
Maryland Fund for Horses:	_____ \$	_____	_____	_____	_____ \$
MHC General Fund:	_____ \$	_____	_____	_____	_____ \$

**TOTAL Amount** *(Dues plus Donations):* \_\_\_\_\_ \$**MEMBER INFORMATION:** *(please fill in completely)*

Assn./Bus./Farm/Charity or Foundation: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact or Individual's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

 Check if you **DO NOT** want your membership to automatically renew each year. Renewals take place each July.**PAYMENT:** *Can be paid Online, by Mail, or by Phone***CREDIT CARD info:** *(NOTE: If credit card billing address differs from the address above, please complete below)*CC # *(please print clearly)* \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name of card holder as it appears on card *(please print)* \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pay ON-LINE at:****MAIL Payments to:****Pay by PHONE:**[www.mdhorsecouncil.org/join.htm](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/join.htm)

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