



August 2016

## President's Letter

Jane Seigler

I have to confess I have mixed emotions as I write this letter. On the one hand, I couldn't be more proud of the organization MHC has become. In each succeeding recent year, our work has become more extensive, more effective and more recognized and respected.

On the other hand, I worry that perhaps we are becoming the victim of our own success. Perhaps our success has created a sense of complacency among some of our supporters, leading to the unfortunate conclusion by some that "MHC is doing just great; my support is not needed."

Nothing could be further from the truth, and indeed this notion could become a serious threat to MHC's continued viability. Our ability to continue and further expand the success of our work on your behalf is almost completely dependent on the support of our members. Our work is done almost entirely by volunteers, but as the scope of our efforts has expanded, so have our expenses. Our legislative efforts have had unprecedented success, largely due to our retention of a paid, professional and highly respected lobbyist. Our overall efficiency and effectiveness as an organization has improved dramatically, largely due the support we receive from a paid, professional administrative management firm.

Since our inception in 1985, MHC has grown from a small, limited organization, to one that has turned heads in Annapolis with the success of our core mission: lobbying to represent the interests of Maryland horse people. But we do more than that. We created a Save The Horse Farms campaign in many counties to overcome unfair zoning and permitting laws. We have a Farm Stewardship committee working to promote and expand the role that horse farms play in protecting the environment. Our Unwanted Horse Project created the Maryland Fund For Horses, a 501(c)(3) charity working on exciting projects to promote equine welfare and cut off the pipeline to slaughter. We have a Political Action Committee to fund horse-friendly candidates for public office. We have a Committee to Support Racing and a Trails and Greenways Committee. We have an MHC Business Network. We coordinate on the national level on issues of importance to our membership. And, of course, we have a Legislative Committee that coordinates our grassroots lobbying.

Horses are a part of the fabric of Maryland, deeply woven into our heritage and history. According to the 2010 Equine Census, we Maryland horse people are 28,340 strong, with 81,000 horses on 16,040 properties that com-

prise 587,000 acres. Our assets are \$5.6 billion, our direct operating expenses are \$363 million, and our economic impact has never been accurately measured, but it is in the billions. We are every breed and every discipline in the horse world, and we are the place where many of those disciplines began in these United States. Considering our numbers, history and economic impact, the Maryland horse community should be a force to be reckoned with in every aspect and at every level of the life and governance of this State. But to achieve that, MHC needs YOU.

### Maryland Horse Council Meeting

August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Second Floor Board Room  
@ Frederick Fairgrounds  
797 E. Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD 21701

6pm: Reception  
7pm: Meeting

#### Highlights for Meeting:

Rosecroft Raceway's future with Lisa Watts

MDA's Animal Health Program with State Vet Michael Radebaugh, VMD

Visit [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org) for RSVP details!

## President's Letter cont'd

Your membership in the Maryland Horse Council is absolutely critical to validate and strengthen our ability to preserve and grow the community and the industry that binds us together through our common devotion to the horse. Every member we list on our rolls increases our clout with the legislators and regulators. Every membership and sponsorship dollar improves our ability to deliver the results our members have grown to expect in protecting and promoting the equestrian community and industry in Maryland. Every member who contributes time and thought to one of our committees brings new energy and ideas that every grass-roots organization needs to survive.

So please - renew your membership, consider offering your time and talents to our work, encourage your friends to get involved, come to our Quarterly meetings, check in with our Facebook pages and blogs, help us secure sponsors, and contribute to our PAC! We need you, your input, and your experience!

If you would like us to speak to your organization, club or barn about what we have been doing, or what's on the horizon for Maryland's horses and horse people, we'd be delighted! Just send your request to [admin@mdhorsecouncil.org](mailto:admin@mdhorsecouncil.org).

Thank you for your past and continuing support of the Maryland Horse Council,



Jane Seigler  
President

## MHC2020 Initiative

**Neil Agate**

All organizations, and especially membership supported organizations, need to constantly evaluate themselves and make sure that they are delivering value to their stakeholders. While the Maryland Horse Council has been tremendously successful over the last three plus decades since it was formed there have been many shifts in lifestyles, technology and the equestrian world in general. So we are embarking on an in-depth look at who the Maryland Horse Council is, what we offer to our membership and what we can do to ensure that the association maintains and grows its profile and membership.

The Maryland Horse Council's primary mandate has always been to represent the Maryland horse community's interests before the state legislature in Annapolis. We are now looking at expanding other areas of focus and adding those that members might find useful. The MHC2020 committee has been created to solicit feedback from the membership on what you think we can do to broaden our reach, how we can get more members, and what we can do that will promote the equestrian eco-system in Maryland. We will create an on-line survey in the future but at this point we want to gather thoughts and ideas from the Maryland equestrian community and so ask you to send your ideas to [mhc2020@mdhorsecouncil.org](mailto:mhc2020@mdhorsecouncil.org). Also if you'd like to play an active part in this initiative please send us an email as we'd love to have all the help we can get—the more the merrier!

## MHC 10th Annual BBQ Preview

**Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**2-6pm**

**Hosted by Waredaca:**  
**4015 Damascus Road**  
**Laytonsville, MD 20882**

We are fortunate to have our annual BBQ hosted by the family owned and operated Waredaca, that includes access to their unique Waredaca Brewing Company located adjacent to our event tent. Mission BBQ will once again provide their reputable high-quality food, while live music will be provided by Arthur Lisi & Friends. There will also be a silent auction and raffle to raise funds for Maryland Horse Council's ongoing projects.

Visit [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org) or our ad elsewhere in this issue for ticket information. Bring the family, bring your friends, bring the farm!

## Farm Stewardship Committee Update

**Jane Thery**

Our Spring May 14th meeting at the impressive Wyndham Oaks Farm was lucky to fall between what seems like our continual rain showers. We met in the club room overlooking the big indoor where the dressage horses were going through their paces. John Blackburn, the renowned stable architect and author of Healthy Stables by Design, spoke about the site planning and design he did for Wyndham Oaks. He noted that the placement of the barns to the prevailing winds is a key element in creating the updraft for quality stable ventilation.

## Farm Stewardship Committee Update

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The roof pitch and vents create a lift effect that, combined with the heat on the sky lights, keeps air moving up and out of the barn to minimize stale air and transfer of dust and pathogens among the horses. John pointed out these features as we toured the barn.

Gerald Talbert, project manager for the Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program (FSCAP), explained how Wyndham Oaks was certified with a nutrient management plan and a conservation plan as well as an original farm design to minimize erosion and handle the manure from 60 horses in an environmentally-sound manner. He reported that new horse farms are being added to the 25+ already FSCAP certified list.

Farm owner, Lori Larson, joined our tour of the farm and pointed out water management features as well as the composting and spreading of the horse manure on pastures and hay fields.

Good news is that Montgomery County soil conservation equine specialist, Shelly Ingram, agreed to serve as the MHC Farm Stewardship Vice Chair and John Blackburn and Gerald Talbert agreed to serve on the committee. Also, Carolyn Krome offered to host the Summer meeting at her lovely Persimmon Tree Farm.

New ideas explored by the group were increasing meeting participation through social media, inviting real estate people who are

often the first point of contact for new horse farm owners, building alliances with other groups such as the Farm Bureau and local government entities.

We look forward to seeing you on August 10th at Persimmon Tree Farm! Visit [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org) for details on this meeting!



Architect John Blackburn speaks about the planning and design of Wyndham Oaks.

## Annual Day at the Races Re-cap

MHC members and friends enjoyed another great 'Day at the Races' on June 5th at Pimlico Race Course. Attendees were treated to barn tours, a fabulous champagne brunch in a beautiful private dining area overlooking the finish line, remarks from Maryland Jockey Club President & General Manager Sal Sina-

tra, as well as talks by a track veterinarian, a jockey, and betting tips on each race from a professional handicapper! Members of our group even got to be in the Winner's Circle for a photo with the winning jockey of the special "Maryland Horse Council Race." And some members took home some great winnings!





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:	\$	.....	\$
<b>TOTAL Amount (Dues plus Donations):</b>			\$

**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:

[www.mdhorsecouncil.org/join.htm](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/join.htm)

MAIL Payments to:

Maryland Horse Council  
P.O. Box 141  
Damascus, MD 20872

Pay by PHONE:

301.502.8929