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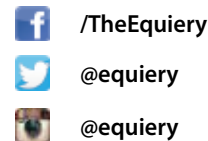
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# EQUERY

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## THE MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL

As a grassroots membership-based organization, the mission of the Maryland Horse Council is to unify and serve Maryland's diverse community of equine owners and enthusiasts and horse-related industries and businesses for the following purposes:

- Improve the lives and welfare of horses and horse people in Maryland
- Improve and maintain lands related to horses (including but not limited to farmland, parkland and open space)
- Enhance existing and create new networks within the community
- Enhance internal communication within the community
- Provide a unified voice to state legislators and regulators
- Provide a template for state-level relationships that can be executed at the county-level by MHC members

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee meets monthly or more often to oversee the daily business affairs of the Maryland Horse Council, including its related entities The Equiery, the Maryland Equine Transition Service, the MHC PAC, and the newly established MHC Foundation.

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### From the President

By Neil Agate, MHC President

Happy New Year & welcome to 2021! We made it! Like most, I am hopeful that 2021 will be a lot different than 2020.

As I write this column in the middle of December, glimmers of hope are beginning to shine through. Although COVID-19 numbers still seem to be on the rise, news of several vaccines being given to front line workers is an encouragement to all. Unfortunately, I suspect that long after the virus has been eradicated by the vaccine we will feel the financial stresses of the pandemic. The financial conditions of the Maryland Horse Council, *The Equiry* and the Maryland Equine Transition Service (METS) have been greatly affected as we have seen big drops in advertising, sponsorships and donations.

But, we made it through 2020. I am proud of the hard work put in by everyone involved with the Maryland Horse Council, *The Equiry* and METS as conditions were less than ideal for all three components of MHC. We survived 2020!

Over the last few months I've had many discussions about what 2021 is going to look like for the Maryland horse community. The fact that the vaccine is starting to be delivered in larger quantities is certainly reason to hope that we are on the way back to normalcy. It is very likely, however, that we still have a few bumps on the road to recovery. For MHC, *The Equiry* and METS we need to focus on thriving and not just surviving. To do that, we need participation from our members, readers and supporters. That means you!

All parts of MHC are here to serve you, the Maryland horse community, and everything we do is driven by your feedback. Not only is it driven by you, but it is supported by you. It is supported by your membership dues, by your ad placements and by your donations. For the entire Maryland horse community to thrive, we need to make sure that the community grows and we believe that growth needs to be bolstered by strong organizations like the Maryland Horse Council.

The Maryland Horse Council is primarily a membership based organization that, under the direction of our Board of Directors and Executive Committee (both made up of our members), fosters the growth of the Maryland horse community in many ways. As things change in Maryland, our efforts need to evolve to make sure that we are well representing our members and addressing their needs.

It is important for us to have as large a base of members as possible, not only to ensure that we represent our broad horse community, but also to know that we have the support to fund our activities and give our sponsors maximum exposure to keep their businesses functioning. So, if you

are reading this, please encourage your friends in the horse community to join MHC and if you have ideas on how to reach out to more members of our community, please let us know.

One of MHC's most important functions is representing our community before the state legislature, and sometimes local governments, too. Our impact in Annapolis is bolstered by our Political Action Committee, which financially supports the campaigns of legislators who support the horse community. A strong and effective Horse Council in Annapolis requires a strongly supported PAC, and we rely on you to support the PAC and keep it strong and effective.

If we want to make sure that we continue to have a great community communications vehicle like *The Equiry*, we need to make sure that we advertise our businesses in *The Equiry* and as members, we need to support those advertisers (and tell them you saw their ad in *The Equiry*). Recently, we've had discussions with several advertisers about the value of print advertising versus other methods, such as social media. The popular opinion seems to be that social media is the way to go, but those who have been in the advertising business know that there is no one single best advertising forum, as for an advertising campaign to be successful, it needs to be seen in multiple formats and multiple times to reinforce the message in a consumer's mind. Even Facebook understands this as when they have important information to disseminate they take out full page ads in traditional newspapers like *The Washington Post* or *New York Times* (as they recently did in their privacy battle with Apple)

While platforms like Facebook might appear to be successful as you're constantly fed ads, we all know how quickly we can block out those ads and how rarely we click on them to see the message they are trying to convey. Despite this, we see value in social media ads as part of a coordinated approach which includes multiple types of media, including regional print advertising such as *The Equiry*. By doing so, it delivers on a triple bottom line, supporting your business, your Maryland horse community and your horse.

If you are a business owner reading this, call *The Equiry* today and ask about our multi-platform advertising packages. Our staff can customize a package that best suits your needs while maximizing exposure of your business. Although it was a financially tough year for the *Equiry* the MHC Executive Committee have decided not to implement our usual cost of production advertising rate increase this year - see reprinted letter to Advertisers on page 8.

Almost three years ago, MHC received a grant to help us address the pervasive problem of unwanted horses. The grant funded the startup of our Maryland Equine Transition Service (METS), which to date has helped re-home almost 200 horses without placing additional demands

*continued...*

## THANK YOU TO OUR MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL SPONSORS!



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## Letter from the Publisher, continued...

on our great horse rescues here in Maryland. 2021 will introduce new challenges for the METS program as the initial grant funding will run out and we will need the program to be self-sustaining.

We have a great staff and steering committee that have shaped METS through the last three years and have set the program up on a strong foundation. To focus on the sustainability of the program we have recently hired a full-time development officer, Jessica Avila-Franco. Jessica will be responsible for developing programs that will allow us to continue

to fund this important program and allow us to continue to help transition horses into new homes and careers.

Once again, I want to wish you a happy new year and ask that you think about how you might be able to help us build a stronger Maryland Horse Council and therefore strengthen the Maryland horse community. Please feel free to reach out to me at [nagate@mdhorsecouncil.org](mailto:nagate@mdhorsecouncil.org) if you have any suggestions or ideas on how we can grow MHC or address any specific issues within our community.

### Dear Advertisers and MHC Members:

Thank you so much for maintaining your advertising presence in *The Equiery* and for renewing your memberships with the Maryland Horse Council. We truly appreciate it!

In January of 2020 we had no idea what was waiting for us. By March, the horse industry, like most every industry in Maryland, came almost to a standstill. Every day since, we are reminded of the goodness and the resilience of the members of the horse community.

The Maryland Horse Council and *The Equiery* know how hard it was for barns to turn away their students and boarders; how hard it was for tack stores to keep their doors open and their employees safe; how hard it was for vets to treat patients and maintain a six-foot distance from the owners. As the voice of the equestrian community, we worked with elected officials and government agencies to reopen the barns, to find a way for the tack stores to stay open, and to help all the support businesses work within the new format.

We became accustomed to Zoom instead of meeting in person. The Maryland Horse Council hosted seminars to help business owners avoid financial difficulties. We kept you informed through our website, social media and, primarily, through *The Equiery*, in print and online.

This year has proven again that the Maryland Horse Council and *The Equiery* are integral parts of the horse industry, protecting your interests and keeping you informed. But we can do nothing without the support of you, our members and our advertisers.

*The Equiery*, through our print and digital formats, offers advertisers a built-in, targeted, favorable audience. Independent studies show that consumers perceive advertising in print magazines twice as positively as they do advertising on social media. Print is just considered more credible than social media, as are print's digital platforms. With people spending so much time on computer screens for work and meetings, they want to step away from the screens - and thus print is rebounding in popularity. *The Equiery* is delivered straight into the hands of thousands of Maryland horse people each month.

Like many of you, *The Equiery* has not had an easy year. But we know that many businesses are still struggling, and we value and want to support our partners in this wonderful community. So the Maryland Horse Council has decided to maintain *The Equiery* rates unchanged for 2021. Meanwhile, we have added new features to *The Equiery*, and we will be freshening our look. We will also be offering new services for our members and advertisers. Stay tuned! And don't forget that members of MHC are eligible for special discounts on your *Equiery* advertising!

We look forward to working with you in 2021. If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve our service to you, please let us know!

#### Neil Agate

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# NEWS & VIEWS

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**Guests and ponies share holiday cheer at the Greenwell Foundation's drive-through holiday meet and greet.**

## Greenwell Hosts a Horse Drive Thru

On December 3, the Greenwell Foundation in Hollywood, Maryland, hosted a drive-thru holiday celebration. Staff and horses were decked out in holiday costumes and lined the Manor House driveway circle where invited friends from group homes and day programs were able to drive up and pet the horses through their car windows. Each visitor left with a goodie bag as well.

"Greenwell Foundation has been offering our Watershed Heroes program for almost four years," said Greenwell's Executive Director Jolanda Campbell. "We are holding Watershed Heroes [programs] over ZOOM and were so eager to see our friends in person in a safe and healthy way. So we designed this special celebration."

## Full Moon Farm Gifts Lessons

This past December, Full Moon Farm reached out to its Finksburg area community asking for nominations of children from families affected by COVID-19 that may need a Christmas/holiday gift. Farm owner Karen Fulton committed to donating 25 private lessons "to bring holiday cheer to those who have not yet been able to

ride at Full Moon Farm."

In addition, Fulton sent out a challenge to other barns to do similar programs at their stables. She said, "The equestrian community possesses many strengths, including a willingness to learn and improve, and a passion for sharing the incredible joy that horses can bring to a person's life. We can all create a welcoming opportunity for more participants and fans."

## MD Racing Commission Regulations Update

On December 2, the Maryland Racing Commission approved final regulations related to continuing education for trainers, banning race-day Lasix and expanded restrictions on shock wave therapy. All three topics began moving through the regulatory process months ago.

According to a MRC press release, "continuing education programs are part of the Mid-Atlantic Strategic Plan to Reduce Equine Fatalities." As of January 1, 2022, all licensed trainers and assistant trainers must provide documentation showing they participated in four hours of continuing education during the 2021 calendar year. Two of those hours must be related to

equine health and welfare. This new requirement follows along what New York is already doing, and other Mid-Atlantic states are in the process of implementing similar regulations. The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has started discussions on providing educational programs that will satisfy the new requirement.

Earlier this year, MRC approved revising the Lasix regulation to ban its use within 48 hours of a race for 2-year-olds only. In 2021, this rule will be extended to all graded stakes run at Maryland racetracks. Currently, non-graded stakes are not part of the Lasix ban.

As for shock wave therapy, MRC has now stated that a horse is not permitted to race within 10 days of receiving this treatment. The new regulation extends the 10-day stand-down to training and workouts.

In addition, MRC signed off on the recommendation from the Maryland-Bred Race Advisory Committee to maintain the current percentages for breeder and stallion purse bonuses through June 2021. There is a caveat that these percentages may need to be amended should COVID-19 restrictions impact racing's

revenue stream. Currently the breeder bonus is 25% and the stallion bonus is 8.33%. These percentages were reduced from 30% and 10% in 2020 due to the shutdown of live racing and casino gambling in Maryland during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ESWHA Announces Scholarship Winners

The Eastern Shore Western Horse Association announced this past November the winners of its annual \$500 scholarships. The scholarships are to be applied to the 2020-2021 school year and were presented at the club's annual open meeting. This year's winners are Haley Scott and Georgia Weiner.

Typically ESWHA presents one scholarship, however this

*continued...*



## Burke Equipment Food Drive

Burke Equipment Company financially contributes to the Food Bank of Delaware through its summer Kubota Customer Appreciation Event. This funding helped provide food for the Seasonal Food Bank distribution at Dover Downs on November 18, 2020. Over 1700 families were provided food.

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**Eastern Shore Western Horse Association scholarship winners Haley Scott (left) and Georgia Weiner (right)**

year the Alex Gene Dill Memorial Scholarship was created in memory of the late horseman who greatly impacted the Delmarva equine industry. Dill was a past president of ESWHA and many of his family members still participate in the club.

### Stronach Group Urges Ban on Racehorse Sales to South Korea

After viewing a PETA video expose on the slaughter of racehorses in South Korea for

meat, The Stronach Group publicly endorsed PETA's efforts to ban the sale of North American Thoroughbreds to South Korean racing interests.

PETA discovered that the American stallion Private Vow, along with his sons Normal Classic and Private Man, were slaughtered for meat in July, August and September of 2020, respectively. Private Vow was sold to South Korea for stud duty in 2014. PETA has asked the Korea Racing Authority to introduce a re-

tirement system modeled on the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, allocate 2% of prize money to aftercare, end its support for horse slaughter, and ensure that imported North American horses will not be slaughtered.

TSG president and chair Belinda Stronach stated, "The Stronach Group is urging all North American auction companies, breeders and owners to develop policies that prohibit the sale of Thoroughbred racehorses or brood mares to South Korea without the meaningful and binding assurances that these noble animals will be protected after their racing and breeding careers."

### Kudos To...

...Maryland dressage rider **Hannah Irons** on being selected to participate in the 2021 US Equestrian Robert Dover Horsemanship Clinic Week. Irons, who hails from Queenstown, will join 19 other emerging athletes at the clinic held during the Global Dressage Festival in Wellington, Florida, this month.

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# ARABBING: More Than a Way of Life

By Katherine O. Rizzo

Delivering fruit and vegetables using a horse-drawn cart may seem outdated to many, especially at a time when the entire world has practically been forced indoors and onto cell phones, tablets, computers and other electronic devices to do everything from ordering groceries to attending work or school. It would seem that in the virtual age we are living in, Arabbing might have met its end, however, the complete opposite has happened.

While the world anxiously awaits a COVID-19 vaccine and a return to “normal,” the tradition of Arabbing has become an even more important fixture of the Baltimore City landscape. Without the dedication of these men and women, many residents within the urban areas of Baltimore would not have been able to weather the storm that is the COVID-19 pandemic.

## On the Front Lines

When Governor Hogan shut down Maryland businesses last March, except for those deemed essential, food distribution remained on the “essential” list. However, for many inner city residents, heading to the grocery store was not an option. Whether it was physically impossible or for fear of catching COVID, a large population stayed indoors, relying heavily on delivery of food.

The Arabbers of Baltimore immediately stepped forward, taking to the streets to deliver food and other necessary items, such as facemasks and information about COVID-19. However, instead of selling these items, they gave, and continue to give, them away for free, partnering with various groups such as Food Rescue Baltimore, Holly Poultry and the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s, Community Engagement Center.

Arabbers are uniquely suited to this role. M. Holden Warren, founder of Food Rescue Baltimore and Vice President of the Arabber Preservation Society, stated in an April 2020 *Equiery* article, “the Arabbers are a trusted institution. The people in these communities will listen to their advice and messages.” As the pandemic continues, Arabber Levar Muller of the Carlton Street Stable recently stated, “we have a duty. It’s up to us to provide to these people.”

Despite the tradition of Arabbing being a fairly social affair, normal operations have halted until it is safe to resume gatherings. “It’s a hard pill to swallow, but we will get through it,” Arabber Dorothy Johns of the Bruce Street Stables said. Johns has switched to using her truck for neighborhood deliveries during the pandemic. “I don’t want to encourage people to gather around the horses so the truck is a bit more subtle,” she said. “We are all afraid of [COVID] and we want to protect ourselves and others.”

Arabber James Chase of Fremont Stables stated, “There are still people in the city that cannot go to the store. We help these people. We provide a door to door service.” Chase is also the current President of the Arabber Preservation Society. Muller added, “We will survive this [pandemic] because we have to survive it. We are a service to the community and we need to preserve this history.”

The one positive that has come from this pandemic for Baltimore’s Arabbing community is the positive public exposure they are receiving. From articles and photos in local publications to national news coverage, it seems the country needs these stories of public service more than ever.

## An American Story

Street vendors have been around since the beginning of America’s history. The tradition of Arabbing, selling fruits and vegetables from horse-drawn carts, stems back to the early 19th century and was once common all along the East Coast. The lyrical calls of the Arabbers have become an American oral tradition, taught by word of mouth through generations.

“The horse and wagon pretty much built this country,” Muller stated, explaining that without a horse and wagon, distribution of products across the U.S. could not have happened. The history of Arabbing has not just become important to America’s story, but to that of Baltimore City and the African American community. “You have to be an old soul to understand the culture [of Arabbing],” Johns added.

“Baltimore is lucky to have something as distinguishing as the Arabbers,” stated freelance journalist and filmmaker Charles Cohen. “Arabbing really is a part of Baltimore and a way to embrace rural culture inside Baltimore City.” Cohen has been filming John’s Bruce Street Stables and has even brought filmmaking students from John’s Hopkins to the stables for assignments. “I’m shooting because the story is there,” he said.

After the Civil War, many African Americans headed north and took with them some of the South’s rural traditions. African American men mostly dominated Arabbing in cities until the 1920s when women began to be more involved with the trade.

Mildred Alan was one of these women who headed to the streets of Baltimore and became the first African American woman to own a stable within the City. “Our family came up from the Carolinas in the 1920s and she was my grandfather’s mother,” Muller explained. “Arabbing is all about family.”

## The Remaining Three

As industries and technologies progressed, the need for horses and wagons almost dried up

*continued...*



Ron Cassie

As soon as the state shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic last March, the Arabbing community of Baltimore City shifted gears providing food, facemasks and other supplies to inner city residents free of charge.



April Smith/Equiery Archives

Arabbing is a time-honored tradition kept alive by a few devoted Baltimore families. (photo taken in 2008)



Anne Litz

Dorothy Johns, owner of the Bruce Street Stables, with one of her Arabbing horses.



Anne Litz

The Carlton Street Stable is one of three remaining Arabbing stables in Baltimore.



## ARABBING: More Than a Way of Life, continued...

Arabber Preservation Society photo



**An Arabber's horse wearing the traditional Baltimore Fancy Harness.**

Anne Litz



**Shauna and Carlton Street Stable owner Levar Mullen outside the stable's entrance.**

completely and in Baltimore, there are only three stables remaining. The Carlton Street Stable is the oldest stable in the U.S., according to Muller. "It was started in the 1850s and was a coal, ice and wood distribution center," Muller said.

Growing up in the trade, Muller stays in the business because, "we are a service to the people and a service to our community." He went on to explain that the urban areas of Baltimore still need these resources. "That history must continue."

In 2020, the Carlton Street Stable became the first Arabbing stable licensed through the Maryland Horse Industry Board. It currently houses seven to eight horses and four wagons. MHIB Executive Director Ross Peddicord recently visited each of the remaining stables stating, "not only do these three barns maintain the Arabbing tradition, but they also serve as neighborhood community centers in West Baltimore."

Johns purchased Bruce Street Stables about eight years ago. Her family has been in the Arabbing business since her grandmother became one of the first African American women Arabbers in Baltimore. Johns says the Arabbing industry will continue because, "When all else fails, grab the horse and go!"

At Bruce Street, Johns typically houses five horses at any given time. "Right now we have three minis and two Arabbing [horses]," she said. "We have two more horses out at pasture in Virginia at my cousin's place. I send them there to stretch their legs and get some rest."

Chase also got involved in the business through his grandparents. In his case, he started tagging along with his grandfather when he was just six years old. "It's a family thing," he said, explaining that he has several uncles, cousins and other relatives all involved with Arabbing. "During my grandfather's time, there were at least 15 stables in Baltimore. Way more than

that," he reminisced. "We are the last three."

### The Power of the Horse

Chase was drawn to Arabbing because of the horses, stating, "I went with [my grandfather] because of the horses. [Arabbing] is all about the horse."

Johns has the same feelings, explaining that Arabbing is more about the horse than anything else. "A horse is a totally different animal. Arabbing is one with horses. There is something about them that just draws people in."


Chase added, "In the city, people are used to seeing dogs and cats, but not horses. Every time I bring out a horse, people flock to us." Chase also explained that he wishes more people would see how important the horse is to their way of life. "We love and cherish our horses just as much as we love our kids! Some of the animal rights people are misguided."

Muller equates Arabbing in many ways to selling ice cream from a van stating, "Seeing the horse and wagon is like seeing the ice cream truck come around the corner. Kids just love to come up and pet the horse." Muller added that the horse is what creates such a unique experience for the community.

"All of these stables are engaged in educational and community outreach through horses," Peddicord said. "Horses allow people to dream, to think about someone other than themselves and show kindness and affection."

Keeping the horse as the star of the show is one of the main reasons that Baltimore's current Arabbers are looking to preserve the culture and industry. "Arabbing teaches kids there is a different way of doing things. A different way of life," Chase said. He went on to add, "Kids see the easy way to make money on social

*continued...*

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## ARABBING: More Than a Way of Life, continued...

media and all those reality TV shows. Arabbing teaches so much more about responsibility and compassion. A more positive way of life.”

Educating youth is now a primary focus of Johns, who is hoping to turn the Bruce Street Stable into an education center. “I’ve seen where Arabbing has gotten a lot of people off the street,” she said. “It teaches kids there is another way of life outside of a phone and computer.”

Johns feels learning about horses and their care is a “big deal” to many of Baltimore City’s urban youth. “I want to create a voucher system to reward positive behaviors that will lead to successful lives. If we can get to them before the streets do, they have a shot,” she said, adding, “It’s something really needed by the community.”

Chase agrees saying, “now more than ever we need to turn the whole country around. Its time for us to make that change.”

### Preserving a Culture

The Arabber Preservation Society (APS) was founded in March of 1994, initially to help the Retreat Street Stable comply with changing city building codes. The non-profit organization is

dedicated to the support and preservation of all of Baltimore’s Arabbers with their mission statement reading, “We recognize Arabbing as an African-American folk tradition; an economically viable system and a method of apprenticeship completely unique to Baltimore.”

Over the next few years, APS created various programs to highlight the positives of the Arabbing culture including a farrier apprenticeship program beginning in 1995 with a veterinary program being initiated the following year. APS purchased the historic carriage house on Lemmon Street in 1996 to create the Arabber Museum and in 1998, published a study entitled “Arabbing in the 21st Century.”

APS continues to represent the Arabbers in relation to various city regulations, which over the years have often sought to remove Arabbing from Baltimore. “Baltimore City has had its ups and downs in terms of support,” Cohen stated. “To me, Arabbing is like this beautiful little wild plant that you want to see flourish. It’s an endangered lifestyle.”

“The rules by the City are really restrictive,” Johns said, adding, “we can’t go out after dark,

which in the winter really impacts us because that’s when our customers are coming home from work.” All in all, Johns understands why such rules are put in place and said, “we go out when we can.”

In 2010, APS successfully lobbied to have the Arabber Community of Baltimore added to Preservation Maryland’s Endangered Maryland program. Preservation Maryland is the State’s oldest and largest preservation organization dedicated to advocacy, outreach and education, and funding of Maryland’s historical landmarks and cultural activities.

“The Arabbers are a unique part of Maryland’s equine culture that ranks right up there with the Assateague Ponies and our other time-honored horse traditions,” Peddicord said. “The Arabbers, like the Chesapeake watermen, are one of those cultural icons that make Maryland ‘Maryland’.”

“I can’t really describe the feeling of Arabbing,” Johns concluded. “It’s like you are doing something great. You’re part of the community. One with the horse and one with the people. A part of the people. That’s why we do it.”



Arabber Preservation Society photo

Baltimore’s Arabbing youth riding in the 2019 Mayor’s Parade where their entry finished second overall.



Anne Litz

MHIB Executive Director Ross Peddicord, Baltimore City Animal Control Officer Sharon Miller, documentary film maker Holden Warren, Carlton Street Stable owner Levar Mullen and MD Stable Inspector Ellen James at the Carlton Street Stables

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At noon on Wednesday, January 13, the 442nd session of the Maryland General Assembly will convene in Annapolis. That much is certain. What will happen after that is anyone's guess. Some have speculated that the legislators will pass the budget and go home; others are expecting that the session will run its full course and adjourn, as scheduled, on April 12. What is certain is that the session, for as long as it lasts, will be unlike any other in Maryland history.

With some specified exceptions, the legislative buildings will be closed to the general public. That means that there will be no opportunities for the traditional popping into offices or buttonholing of legislators in hallways by lobbyists or the public. Outdoor rallies outside the State House will still be permitted if allowed under City of Annapolis rules then in effect. In one positive new development - especially if it continues after the end of the pandemic - all floor sessions, committee hearings, subcommittee meetings, and committee voting sessions will be live-streamed on the General Assembly's website. Neither the Senate nor the House will meet every day during the early part of the session, to minimize the number of people who need to be present in the legislative buildings. House and Senate chamber galleries will generally be closed to all but a limited number of reporters.

The Senate and House Leadership have each developed guidelines for how the legislature's business will be done in the face of the pandemic, with the acknowledgment that changing circumstances may require new adaptations.

The Senate will have "staged" operational plans, depending on the level of disease on the legislative "campus," (i.e., not necessarily within the state or even Annapolis city). Under optimal health conditions, the Senate may operate more or less as normal with these exceptions: floor sessions will be limited to two hours, desks have been distanced in the chamber, plexiglass shields have been installed, and some additional social distancing options are available for members who wish them; com-

mittee hearings will be held virtually, with members in their offices; voting will take place in-person in committee rooms. Office meetings with the public will be limited to two visitors at a time; guests must be escorted to and from lawmakers' offices.

Should some "documented exposures requiring quarantine" occur, floor debate and voting will move to committee rooms and be held virtually, to allow for more distance between lawmakers. Bill hearings will be held remotely, with members in their offices. Building access will be limited to legislators, staff and media. No visitors will be allowed.

If there is an "increase" in COVID-19 infections "or multiple instances of disease activity and potential transmission; pandemic conditions," floor debate and voting will largely be suspended, at least temporarily. Virtual hearings will continue.

Of note is that a limitation on the number of bills that can be introduced, which was proposed before the onset of the pandemic, could further streamline the process.

Because of the size of the House of Delegates (141), the House Chamber cannot accommodate them all with socially distanced desks, so for floor sessions the members will be spread out among the floor itself and some annexed spaces in the House building. Delegates who desire even more space from their colleagues can sit in the gallery, where they will be allowed to vote but not participate in floor debate. Except for floor votes, Delegates are encouraged to work from home, including for committee meetings and hearings. They are discouraged from holding meetings in their offices.

Those of us who have endured hours of sitting in Annapolis in Committee hearing rooms, waiting for our bills to be called for testimony, will be thrilled to learn that, not only will committee hearings be virtual and we can testify from our own homes, but also the specific bill order will be posted on the Maryland General Assembly website the day before the hearing. Witness sign-up will be opened online through the Maryland General Assembly website 48 hours before the bill hearing. In a new development, the Senate will cap the number of witnesses at four in favor, two "favorable with amendments," and four opposed. (For more complex or contentious issues, the numbers may be doubled.) The House will cap bill hearings at a maximum of 50 witnesses per bill.

As can be seen, the state legislature will be operating under new and significant constraints, and most Annapolis watchers predict that, even if the session lasts for the full ninety days, the COVID-imposed restrictions will have a measurable impact on how much the legislature gets done. Priorities are expected to be the budget, COVID response and re-

### Time is Running Out - Please Act Now!

The Maryland General Assembly will convene at noon on January 13. It will be a Legislative Session like no other in our legislature's long and storied history. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the legislative buildings will be closed to the general public; almost all activities will be conducted virtually. This means that our ability to meet personally with and persuade our legislators, as well as to testify on bills, will be severely curtailed. The reality of that situation means that the MHC PAC becomes even more important in our efforts to protect and promote the interests of the equestrian community. Legislators respond to PAC contributions and pay attention to organizations with robust PACs. So we must build up our PAC's war chest now!

By law, we must make our PAC disbursements to legislators before the Legislature opens its session in January. Legislators ramp up their fundraising in December, ahead of the legal deadline. So we need your PAC contribution NOW.

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lief, veto overrides (i.e., “Kirwan” education reforms and funding), sports betting (approved by the voters in the last election), and police reform.

Of course, as they say, “all politics is local,” and Maryland horse people can be affected by actions at an even more local level, i.e., the counties. To the extent our resources permit, the MHC Government Relations Committee can work at the county level as well as the state level. Maryland has 24 local jurisdictions, each of which operates under one of three different forms of governance. The three forms are code counties, code home rule counties, and charter counties.

**CODE:** Code counties are governed by a board of elected county commissioners, which in turn appoints a County Administrator to run day-to-day operations. Code counties have limited legislative authority, and the State General Assembly has the full power to legislate for the county. In code counties, the county delegations to the General Assembly (i.e., the elected Delegates and Senators for that county) play an especially important role in setting county law. The six code counties are Calvert, Carroll, Garret, St. Mary’s, Somerset, and Washington.

**CODE HOME RULE:** Six counties have adopted “code home rule.” Code home rule counties are also governed by boards of elected county commissioners and a board-appointed county administrator, but they have broader legislative authority than code counties. The General Assembly cannot make local law in a specific code home rule county; instead the General Assembly can make laws that applies generally to all code home rule counties only. The six “code home rule” counties are Allegany, Caroline, Charles, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Worcester.

**CHARTER:** Charter counties, of which there are 12, have an elected county council as well as an elected executive. Nine of them elect a council and a separate executive, two of them elect a council that also acts as the executive, and Baltimore City has an elected city council and mayor. Charter counties have the broadest authority over local law of the three forms of governance. The General Assembly can legislate only in the specific, and narrow, areas expressly set out in the county’s charter. The 12 charter counties are Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Talbot, and Wicomico.

The Government Relations Committee adapts its processes to each of the three different forms of local governance. To the extent our resources permit, we monitor the county councils of the charter counties quite closely, as many of them have broad jurisdiction over land use, agriculture, open space issues, and, recently, the pandemic response. We monitor the boards of commissioners in code home rule counties for local zoning and animal control issues. And in code counties, we monitor the local bills introduced in the General Assembly by the county delegations (as we do for all counties). We encourage all our members to familiarize themselves with their county’s form of government and its leaders and processes, and to be MHC’s eyes and ears on the ground, to assist us in monitoring developments at the local level. With your help, we can ensure that our members get the information they need, in a timely manner, to have an impact on local decisions that affect our lives, our horses, our businesses and our farms.

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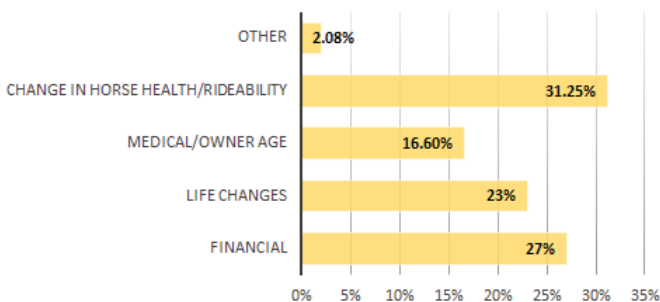


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# 2021 IN MARYLAND ACTIVITY GUIDE



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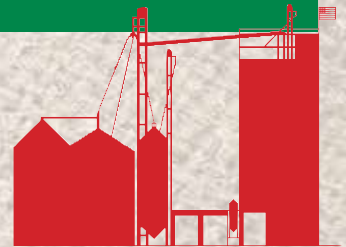
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# Can Maryland's Breeding Industry Survive COVID-19?

While many lesson stables are booming with waitlists, other aspects of Maryland's horse industry have suffered due to state and county COVID-19 restrictions. In an attempt to measure the state of the Maryland's breeding industry, *The Equiery* sent out a survey to stallion and broodmare owners. Overall, the results and 2021 predictions look positive!

## STALLION SURVEY

### Q. Are you standing a breeding stallion for 2021?

A. 80% of those who took our survey said that they are standing a stallion for 2021 with 20% saying no.

Of those who said they are no longer standing a stallion in 2021, all replied "other" and did not give a specific reason. In addition to "other," the survey gave the following options for those who clicked they were no longer standing a stallion: stallion no longer producing, lost interest in breeding, lack of funds, and COVID-19 pandemic.

Maryland's 2021 stallion lineup looks healthy, with diversity of breeds including Warmbloods, Thoroughbreds, Hackney Ponies, Welsh Ponies, Standardbreds and more. For a full list of Maryland stallions, please see our online Stallion Directory at equiery.com.

### Q. Are your bookings similar to pre-COVID-19 years?

A. 50% of those who took the survey said that so far, their bookings are in line with pre-pandemic years. 25% reported smaller bookings to date and another 25% clicked the "too soon to tell" option.

### Q. Are you concerned at all that the current COVID-19 pandemic might impact the breeding industry?

A. Overall, the responses we received were positive with people saying that so far, they have not seen much effect. Below are a few responses.

"Yes, I have already noticed a decline in horse related purchases like lessons and leasing and I have not been approached for one booking yet. Last year at this time we had four bookings."

"I think in the pony industry, probably little impact."

"Absolutely – sales and breeding remained stronger this year than anticipated but [I'm] hesitant to assume that will continue."

"Yes. It has impacted the rest of our business tremendously and we expect it to similarly impact the business in 2021."

### Q. Where do you advertise your stallion?

A. The answers to the above question were interesting as the survey offered a variety of print and web options. There was no overwhelmingly preferred method, so to speak, with 31% stating they primarily advertise on their own stallion/farm website and 23% saying they primarily use social media as an advertising platform.

Another 23% clicked "other" stating they either don't advertise at all or hang flyers/business cards at local feed stores and stables.

Interestingly, these advertising strategies do not match up with the places broodmare owners look for their stallions. See below in the Broodmare Survey results.

## BROODMARE SURVEY

### Q. Do you plan to breed your mare in 2021?

A. An overwhelming 88.9% of those who took our survey said that yes, they do plan to breed their mare(s) in 2021.

Of the 11.1% who said no, 50% credited lack

of funds as the reason while 50% stated "other" reasons.

### Q. If you are breeding your mare in 2021, what stallion(s) are you considering breeding to?

A. We are happy to report that the majority of people who responded to our survey listed stallions standing in Maryland as their answer to this question.

The most popular breed of stallion listed was the Thoroughbred with 50% listing Maryland stallions and 50% listing out of state stallions (Florida and Kentucky). Other breeds represented were Hackney Ponies, Appaloosa, Welsh Ponies, Standardbreds.

One person replied they are having frozen semen shipped from a European stallion.

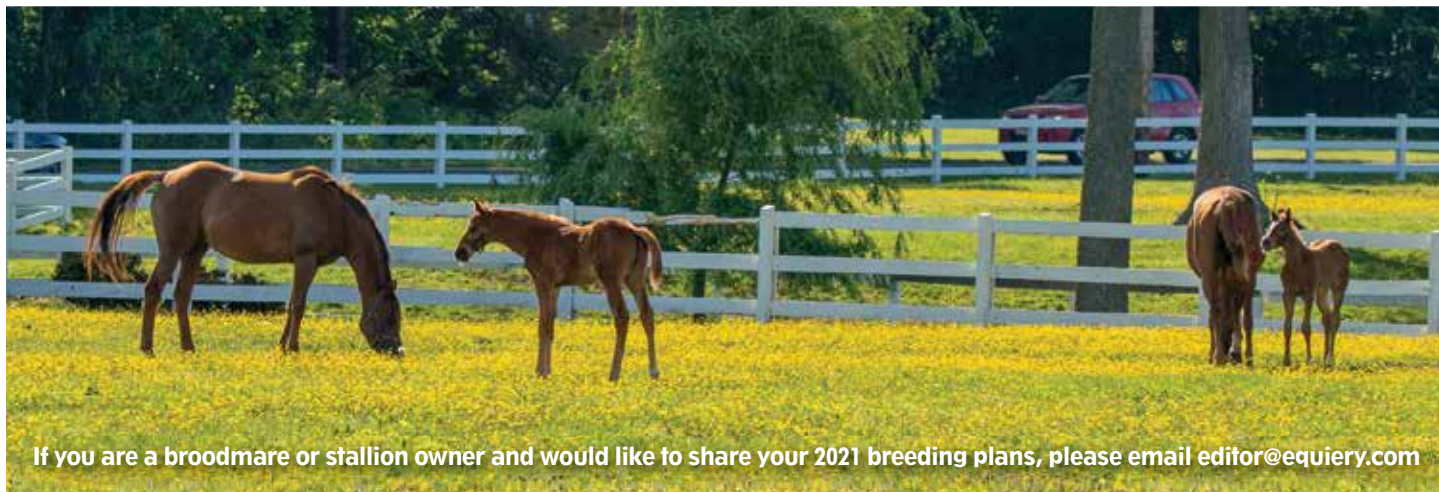
Several broodmare owners stated they plan to breed to the stallion(s) standing at their farms.

### Q. How do you find a stallion to breed to?

A. While most stallion owners stated they advertise only through their own websites, the majority of broodmare owners said they find their stallions through word of mouth (25%). Another 25% stated they only breed to stallions they own or stand at the same farm where their broodmare resides.

Only 16% of broodmare owners actually look at stallion websites and 16% said they look at social media sites.

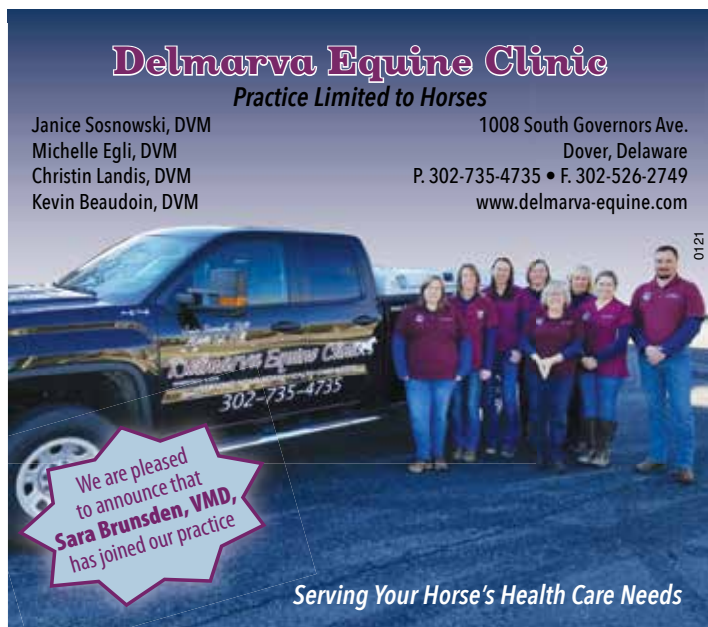
Interestingly, more broodmare owners look at print publications to find their stallions than stallion owners reported using print advertising.



If you are a broodmare or stallion owner and would like to share your 2021 breeding plans, please email [editor@equiery.com](mailto:editor@equiery.com)

# MD-bred spotlight

# MD-bred spotlight



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## Academics

Transitioning from in person to online education kept everyone on their toes this year! We were glad to offer students hands-on experiences to complement their online learning.



We snuck in a few hands-on labs before our equine science and equine reproduction classes moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Our fall Horse Management class was hybrid with lectures online and smaller groups of students participating in socially distanced labs to learn about horse handling and preventative health care.

## Congrats to...

UMD-bred Fearless Ideas for winning her first race beating a field of boys!



Photo courtesy of Gulfstream Park Twitter



Dr. Amy Burk for receiving the Maryland Horse Industry Board's Touch of Class Award for her leadership of the National Association of Equine Affiliated Academics!

## Outreach

Extension education went virtual! From Zoom to YouTube, we kept busy providing education to Maryland horse owners so they could learn from home.

For our last in person event of 2020, we helped coordinate the Southern MD Horse Summit featuring 12 speakers including international 3-day event rider Lynn Symansky.



Our "Zoom-ing in on Healthy Horses" series featured eight weekly webinars over two months on horse pasture and health management, given by our amazing extension colleagues Andy Kness (Harford), Erika Crowl (Baltimore), Maegan Perdue (Worcester), and Dr. Amanda Grev (state pasture specialist).



We teamed up with the MD Horse Council and the Equiery to celebrate Maryland Horse Month with the "Getting Started with Horses" webinar series. Attendees learned from our talented Maryland-based equestrian businesses about where to find a place to ride, what to wear when riding, tips for buying or leasing a horse, and what to know before buying a horse property.



Our YouTube channel, UMD Horse Extension, continues to reach a broad audience in the U.S., Australia, Canada, and Mexico with over 160 subscribers and nearly 67,000 views.



Throughout the year, we serve as industry liaisons to the Maryland 4-H Horse Program, Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup competition, Maryland Horse Council, Maryland Horse Industry Board, and Maryland Equine Transition Service.

## Applied Research

We continued to submit our research findings for publication and design new studies for next year!

Kristina Davis's two studies investigating stress in muzzled miniature horses grazing pasture were published in the Journal of Applied Animal Behaviour Science.

Aubrey Jaqueth's work on the relative traffic tolerance of warm-season turfgrasses and suitability for grazing by equine was published in the Journal of Equine Veterinary Science.



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## Maryland Stallion



By Katherine O. Rizzo

This past October, the Maryland-bred Trakehner stallion Elfenperfekt took home his first CDI wins at the CDI-W Tryon held October 23-25 at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in North Carolina. Ridden by the 14-year-old stallion's trainer, Abraham Pugh of Greencastle, Pennsylvania, Elfenperfekt scored a 68.109% in the Grand Prix and a 74.010% in the Grand Prix Freestyle, winning both classes.

Rounding out the top three at Tryon were two former Marylanders, with Julio Mendoza Loo placing second aboard Rosali and Jessica Jo Tate riding Kynymont Gunsmoke's Gideon to third.

### Rare Bloodlines

Elfenperfekt is by Peron, who is the highest scoring stallion in Olympic history. Peron was also the highest scoring horse on the 1996 U.S. Olympic Dressage team, which earned the team Bronze Medal.

Peron was bred in Europe and was approved at Neumunster in 1986 before being imported to Canada where he stood at the Ahrensberg Trakehner Horse Farms until 1989. He then moved to the U.S. and stood at stud for owner Carol Meyer Webster, but was not actively bred during the build-up to the 1996 Olympic Games. After the Olympics, he returned to Germany and spent some time breeding and competing before his death in 1999.

Before being shipped back to Germany, Peron was collected by Select Breeders Services here in Maryland and Webster retained rights to the frozen semen, intending to start her own breeding operation here in the States. Tragically, Webster died shortly after and her family got out of horses, selling what remained of his semen.

## Elfenperfekt \*Pg\* Earns First CDI Win

One such buyer was Alice Drayer of Jefferson who ended up with four foals by Peron. Elfenperfekt is one of these foals and is owned by both Alice and her husband Peter. Interestingly, one of their other foals also is competing at the Grand Prix level, a mare named Elfen String of Pearls, who is owned and ridden by Marylander Amelia Lyon.

Because of both Peron's and Webster's untimely deaths, Peron offspring are difficult to find!

The American Trakehner Association awarded Elfenperfekt's dam, Elfentraum, Elite Mare status in 2015. Her elite status was due to the accomplishments of both Elfenperfekt and Elfen String of Pearls. Elfentraum is by Zauberklang \*E\* of Canada.

### Growing a Champion

Elfenperfekt first competed here in the U.S. with Wanja Gerlach and quickly earned top awards in Dressage from the American Trakehner Association (ATA). He was ranked the top Trakehner in the country in 2010 for Four- and Five-Year-Old Stallions/Geldings, Materiale, 2011 FEI Five-Year-Old and 2012 FEI Six-Year-Old. In 2012, he was also ranked in the top 10 for the U.S. Dressage Federation's (USDF) FEI Six-Year-Olds, coming in ninth.

Elfenperfekt was also the Reserve Champion Yearling Colts/Geldings for ATA's Dressage Sport Horse Breeding in 2007 and then again in 2008 for the Two-Year-Old Colts/Geldings list.

Pugh took over the reins in 2013 when Elfenperfekt was seven years old and has been his partner ever since. "He has a lot of heart and tries all the time to please," Pugh said. "He's very bonded to me and is a great partner."

The stallion continued to dominate ATA's year-end rankings, topping the Open division for Intermediate II in 2015 and 2016 as well as Grand Prix in 2016, 2018 and 2019. He also broke into USDF top 10 lists again in 2016 (9th for Dressage Horse of the Year, Intermediate II) and 2019 (8th for Musical Freestyle Challenge Grand Prix).

### Tested at Tryon

Although the start of Pugh and Elfenperfekt's season was delayed by COVID-19, this did not phase either horse or rider as they moved forward with their 2020 plans.

They started out the season

with a win in July at Dressage at Lexington in the FEI Grand Prix Challenge class scoring a 72.5%. They also won the FEI Musical Freestyle Challenge Test of Choice, Open class in Lexington with a 74.878%.

In August, Pugh and Elfenperfekt won all their Grand Prix classes at VADA/NOVA Summer Wind Down I and II and PVDA at Waredaca I and II. Next up was the GAIG/USDF Region 1 Dressage Championships held at the Virginia Horse Center October 8-11. There, the pair won the Grand Prix, Open class and placed third in the Grand Prix Musical Freestyle.

The pair continued to shine at Tryon where Pugh told Eurodressage.com after the win, "He just keeps getting better and better, and I keep getting better, so it's really exciting." Pugh told *The Equiry* that the Tryon win was their "biggest feat so far for sure" as the win gained them notice from some of the country's top trainers, including the U.S. Olympic Dressage coaches. "They said if we can get down to Florida this winter, they'll work with us. None of that would have happened without the win at Tryon," Pugh said.

The pair have headed south and are setting their sights now on attempting to qualify for the World Cup in Sweden. The stallion's journey to the top is poignant for Alice Drayer who said, "This is all very personal to me. I've started him as a youngster and there are not a lot of stallions that continue to compete at that level while still breeding."



Vickie M. Kirkpatrick

**Maryland-bred stallion Elfenperfekt, ridden by Abraham Pugh and bred/owned by Alice and Peter Drayer, won both the Grand Prix and FEI Musical Freestyle Test of Choice classes at the 2020 PVDA at Waredaca and finished out the season with wins at Tryon's CDI.**

# Ask the experts



# Ask the experts

1/4 open



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Paige Ervin



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Spicer Cub at Hobson's Choice in Woodbine



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Tammie Monaco's pony Sparky in Sparks



Chelsea Grabham

Texas Twosteps at Banner Country Stables in Gaithersburg



# OUT & ABOUT

JAN  
2021

Maryland's First Snow Day • December 2020



Kim Hanlin, Grace Gorham, Jenny Clayton and Ann Hanlin at SBF Mustang Eventing in Street



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## Introducing the Laura Jones Team...

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As a Baltimore County resident and avid kayak enthusiast, bicyclist and trail rider Lorna

knows the outdoors in the northern counties well. If you're looking to buy or sell in the northern areas text/call 443-226-8687

### SHARON LADDIE



As a lifetime resident of Anne Arundel county Sharon can help any buyer or seller

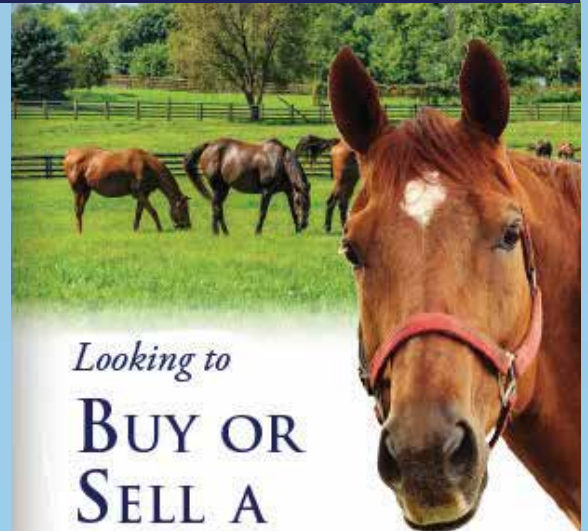
navigate the southern Maryland market. As a farmette owner herself she knows your equestrian needs text/call 410-703-0797

### KEN MACKAY



Ken remembers when Gaithersburg was all farm land! Ken has years of experience

in mortgage lending and real estate investing. He's ready to help you sell or buy in the Montgomery - Frederick areas 240-446-9876



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**DAMASCUS:** 58 acre Estate lot with a 5 BR perk, mostly open with a 360 degree view of the Agricultural Reserve. A tree lined driveway has been constructed. Suitable for many agricultural uses allowed in the AR Zone. Good access to RT. 270 and RT.70 Price upon request.

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**ADAMSTOWN:** Nearly 7 acres, improved by a mid-1800s stone, 3BR, 2 1/2 BA farmhouse with access to the Sugarloaf Mountain trails network and close proximity to the Maryland Horse Trials at Loch Moy Farm. Also improved by a bank barn and other support buildings. Needs fencing, but the pasture is there. Property also has a small pond. Price upon request.



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Chance: Rocky Mountain / QH gelding, 2007, 15.1h. Needs exp rider/handler for riding refresh (been 5yrs), would be a nice pleasure/trail horse. Managed for history w/laminitic episodes, requires dry lot.

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## Days End Farm Horse Rescue

Veda: 2003, 15.0h, Quarter Horse. Perfect companion for the older horse. Light riding. English and western. This sweet mare would be a great addition to any herd.

301-854-5037; Adopt@defhr.org; www.defhr.org



## MidAtlantic Horse Rescue

Modero: Chestnut, gelding, 15.3h, 2016. 2021 RRP Makeover Eligible. Adoption Fee: \$1800. Other nice Thoroughbreds available.

302-376-7297; Bev@MidAtlanticHorseRescue.org;  
www.MidAtlanticHorseRescue.org



## Lifeline Horse Rescue & Rehab., Inc.

Beamer: 16h, 2016 chestnut OTTB gelding. Super sweet, sound, good ground manners. Very green so will req exp rider. Currently in training. Give Beamer a forever home. We require a contract and references.

301-318-1686; Leila@lifelinehorserescue.org;  
www.lifelinehorserescue.org



## Freedom Hill Horse Rescue

Gabe: Fun, 15.1h, 1997, ch, QH gelding. Western pleasure exp, neck reins, rocking horse slow lope, very willing to please. Great for a beginner at mostly a walk - no jumping, wonderful for light trail riding only.

freedom.hill.org@gmail.com;  
www.freedomhillhorserescue.com



## Safe Haven Equine Warriors

Dauphne: 13 hands of sweetness. Dauphne is a 6 yr old pony mare. Still very green, but super willing. Unlimited potential! Adoption fee \$900.

410-718-1806; safehavenequinewarriors@gmail.com;  
www.safehavenequinewarriors.com



## Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue

Bullet: 28 year old, 15 hand, Appaloosa gelding. Sound for walking rides, but would do best as a companion.

adoptions@gentlegiantsdrafthorserescue.org;  
www.gentlegiantsdrafthorserescue.org



## Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue

Billy (Hillbilly): 20 year old, 16.2 hand, Belgian cross. walk/trot/canter for intermediate rider.

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## GAIT, INC.

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301-908-7351; info@littlongears.org;  
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## The Foxie G Foundation

Drevan: 13yo, big, 16.2H, pretty Thoroughbred mare with a lovely way of going. She has shown on the local level as a hunter and does best with a soft confident rider. Adoption fee \$500.

301-667-2553; whinnywhiskers@thefoxiegfoundation.org;  
www.thefoxiegfoundation.org



## Middle Ridge Farm & Rescue

Jill: Looking for a home as a companion and pasture pet. 12yo, just under 16 hands. Many other special senior horses looking for safe pasture homes.

301-305-6440; info@middleidgefarm.com;  
www.MiddleRidgeAnimalRescue.com



## Maryland Horse Rescue

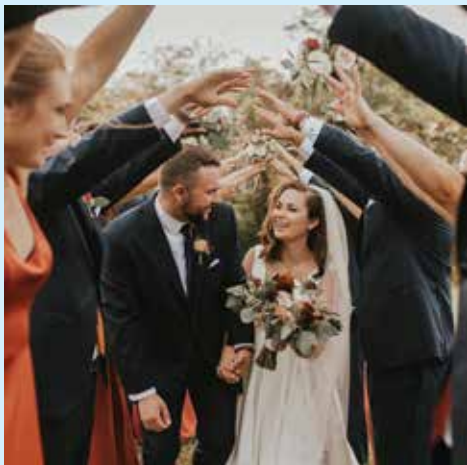
Ginger: 1998, 15.2h Paint mare. Gorgeous girl! Very gentle & laid back, gets along in mixed herd. Avail as a companion with no adoption fee through our unique foster program. Ask us about the benefits of fostering!

301-992-0284; mdhorserescue@gmail.com;  
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# EQUIERY LIFE

## BRIDAL PATHS

provided by Jackie Hoffman



Best wishes to **Devon Marie Hoffman**, Frederick and Good Choice Farm Pony Clubber and former UMD Eventing Team President, and **Logan David Beckner**, who were married on October 10.



Congratulations to **Tucker Hyman** and **Kaeley Secan** who were married at the Hyman's Sweet Sunday Farm on September 6.



Val Levin

Congratulations to Maryland Hunt Cup winning jockey **Eric Poretz** and Calf Pasture Basset pack Whipper-In **Sam Marchant** on their October 10 wedding.



provided by the Pitts family

Best wishes to Potomac Hunt Whipper-In **Laura Pitts** who married **Glenn Delaney** on October 10.

## MARYLAND WILL MISS...

**James "Junior" Ernest Estep** of Lothian died on November 20 at the age of 74. Estep married Betty Lou Moreland in 1964 and then moved to her family's farm in Lothian. Estep worked as an excavator for Hopkins and Wayson's Construction before becoming a roofer for SMAP Gutter Company. After that, he went into business on his own. He was a tobacco farmer for over 30 years and loved racing horses. He owned several racehorses at various points in his life.

**Stephen Charles Glassman** of Jamesville, VA, died on December 3. He was 78. Glassman was born and raised in Great Neck, NY. He was a retired member of the United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps and was a practicing lawyer. Glassman lived for many years in Laytonsville, MD, with his wife Nettie and their children. He was a longtime member of Goshen Hounds and volunteer at the Waredaca Horse Trials.



**Stephen Charles Glassman**

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# OUT & ABOUT

JAN  
2021

## Maryland



The Thursday Riders enjoyed a fall trail ride at the Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood on November 26. From left: Flo Arnold, Barbara Sullivan, Laury Lobel, Kathy Lipton, Deneen Marfin and Susan Hunt



Gina Guffey sent in this photo of a sunset at A Moment in Time Farm in St. Mary's County. Pictured is her 13 year old gelding, Casey.



Vivian Rubino and Newport of Safe Haven Farm competed at the November Country Hill Farm show.



Hazel Parry had entered her pair of minis in this year's Lisbon Horse Parade but with the parade being canceled, Hazel hitched up her team and went for a drive around her farm in West Virginia.



Potomac Hunt member Aurora Munyan and her OTTB Easy to Say No out hunting in December

Pat Michael



Marlborough Hunt Club staff and members at the club's 2020 Thanksgiving Day hunt

Isabel J. Kurek



Beth Collier of Lusby in front of the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree in Washington, DC



Olivia Tyler celebrated her 14th birthday with a jump party at Oak Crest Farm in Harwood.

Reader Contributions - Please send your photos to [editor@equiery.com](mailto:editor@equiery.com) by the 10th of the month. Photos must be at least 300 dpi. Please include the following information with each photo: names of people and horses, location and date where photo was taken, photographer name and contact information. The Equiery is not responsible for any copyright fees associated with the use of professional photographs.

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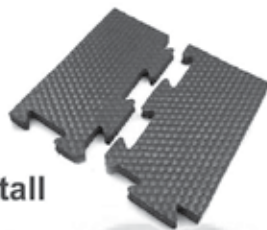
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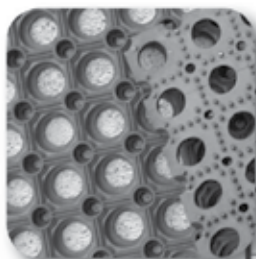
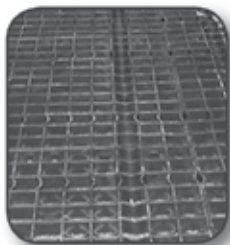
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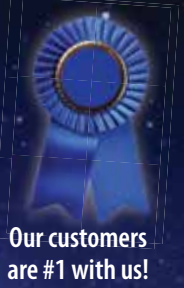




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