

NEWS & VIEWS

You Can Use

MHIB Announces Grant Winners

This year, the Maryland Horse Industry Board has awarded \$30,000 in grants to 33 organizations and equestrian operations. The grants committee selected projects from a pool of 41 applicants. Funding for the MHIB annual grants comes from the Maryland Feed Fund, which collects \$6 on every ton of horse feed sold in the state. The Feed Fund was established in 2002 allowing MHIB to award nearly \$600,000 in grants to over 400 projects thus far.

Several of this year's grants were awarded to pandemic-related projects, including funding for virtual learning kits, videos being produced by equine educational programs, and financial aid given to replenish a hay/grain bank that helped licensed stables during the pandemic. Other projects are related to industry requests from the 2019 Maryland Horse Forum, therapeutic riding programs, trail riding, ambulance rescue initiatives, and help for diverse equestrian disciplines like Western riding, pony breeding, and retired racehorses.

Project proposals were evaluated based on their value to the industry, degree of industry promotion, size and scope of activity, financial need, potential for matching funds, benefits, and overall quality of the written presentation. Grants are capped at \$3,000 in order to award funds to as many groups as possible. Eligible projects should have a completion date no later than June 30, 2021. Grant recipients are required to file a project report with the Board detailing how the money was used.

The following organizations and equestrian operations received 2021 MHIB grants.

- 4Steps Therapeutic Riding
- Airy Hill Stables
- Black & White Cookie
- Camp Letts Equestrian Center
- Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding
- Courageous Hearts Horsemanship
- Days End Farm Horse Rescue
- Equine Rescue Ambulance (Fair Hill Unit)
- Fair Hill Foundation
- Fair Hill International
- Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding
- Frederick County 4-H Therapeutic Riding
- GAIT Inc.
- Green Horse Enterprises
- Historical Society of Harford County
- Kent Agriculture Center
- Lifeline Horse Rescue & Rehabilitation
- Maryland Fund for Horses
- Maryland Horse Council
- Maryland Horse Foundation
- Maryland Pony Breeders
- Maryland Therapeutic Riding
- Potomac Hunt Foxchasing School
- Retired Racehorse Project
- Stables at Winters Run
- Talisman Therapeutic Riding
- Thurmont Riding Club
- Tuckahoe Equestrian Center
- UMD 4-H Youth Department
- UMD Extension (Baltimore Co. Ag Center)
- US Pony Racing
- Valley Meadow Farms

A synopsis of each project is available at <https://mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/Pages/grants.aspx>

Bruton Street Wins in Ireland

While the steeplechase community was still buzzing over champion trainer Jonathan Sheppard's announcement of his retirement while campaigning a string of horses in Ireland, it was the partners of Bruton Street V that found themselves in the winner's circle at the Leopardstown Christmas Festival in Dublin, Ireland, on December 26.

Bruton Street V is the European arm of Bruton Street-US, the 2020 National Steeplechase Association champion owner. Partners in Bruton Street include Mike Hankin, Charlie Fenwick, Charlie Noell, Ben Griswold and others. Their five-year-old French-bred gelding Franco De Port ran away to a 4 ½ length upset in the Racing Post Novice Chase. Bryan Cooper was in the irons for trainer Willie Mullins.

Trainer Barred from Racing in Maryland and Other States

On Saturday, January 9, the New York Racing Association barred trainer Eric Guillot from racing on its circuit for changing the name of one of his horses to a racial slur and taunting African American analyst Ken Rudolph, who works for the horse racing network TVG.

According to the *New York Times*, the owners of the horse in question at the time were unaware of the name change and have since fired Guillot as their trainer. Its new owner, Lawrence Roman stated, "We don't want racism in this sport." He has since changed the horse's name to Respect For All.

The Stronach Group, which owns the tracks here in Maryland, has also banned Guillot from racing horses at their tracks.

IHSA Cancels 2021 Postseason

The Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association board of directors has decided to cancel the 2021 IHSA postseason, which includes the Hunter Seat Zone Finals, Western Semi-Finals and the National Championship Horse Show due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With the ongoing pandemic and numbers on the rise, the board voted with the safety

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TEC Memorial Weekend

Each November, the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center hosts a fall event in honor of founder Cindy Berkey. The 2020 Memorial Weekend and Harvest Auction was a huge success in spite of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Participants had their temps taken, answered all the appropriate health questions, and plied themselves with disinfectant. Everyone masked up too. TEC is once again indebted to Dale Kinnamon and Terry Fewless, Harvest Auction organizers, for their tireless efforts in making this highlight of this annual weekend possible. TEC would like to thank everyone who supported TEC during this annual Memorial Weekend. Their smiles and good will, combined with the perfect weather, created a fun and profitable event for TEC. - *Joyce Bell, TEC*