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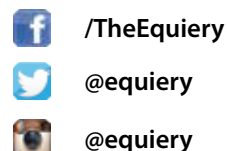
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As a grassroots membership-based organization, the mission of the Maryland Horse Council is to unify and serve Maryland's diverse community of equine owners and enthusiasts and horse-related industries and businesses for the following purposes:

- 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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Economic Relief for Small Businesses

By Crystal Brumme Pickett

As we compose this month's letter, it has been exactly one year since Maryland shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we enter year two of the pandemic, new relief funding has been signed into law at both the federal and state levels. While owners of equine-related businesses often feel like they would not be eligible for these programs, it would behoove many of you to investigate further. Do you fit the criteria of a small business? (Hint: you probably do.) Do you fit the criteria for a woman owned-business? (Hint: the vast majority of equine-related businesses in Maryland are.) If your business also qualifies as minority-owned, then you just hit the trifecta.

Check with your trusted financial advisors, such as your banker and your accountant. Numerous local banks will walk their clients through the application process. Your business may very well fit into one of the categories discussed below. So what's new?

Federal

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act, a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill that allocates new funds and tax credits to help struggling small businesses. While much of the focus has been on what this Act will do for restaurants and entertainment venues, there are opportunities for other small businesses as well. While not a lot of details are available as to deliverables useful for our industry, our friends at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce did provide this useful information:

- **Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) extended through the end of 2021:** In the December 2020 coronavirus relief bill, Congress expanded the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) to help struggling small businesses for the first two quarters of 2021. The American Rescue Act will further help those same businesses by offering the ERTC for the third and fourth quarters of 2021.
- **PPP application deadlines could extend beyond March:** While this Small Business Update primarily concerned the American Rescue Plan, Bradley also mentioned discussions in Congress to extend the PPP application deadline from March to June, which would help more businesses use the program.

Maryland

On February 15, 2021, the bi-partisan Maryland's "Relief Act of 2021" ("Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industry, Entrepreneurs and Families") was signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan and includes more than \$1 billion in tax relief and economic stimulus for struggling families and small businesses who are suffering as a result of the CO-

VID-19 pandemic. Below are highlights of this relief package. For more information, see equiery.com.

- **Retail Businesses—Sales Tax Credit & More:** Attention tack and feed stores! The Relief Act makes a nearly \$200 million commitment to supporting small businesses with sales tax credits of up to \$3,000 per month for three months—for a total of up to \$9,000.
- **Employers—Relief on Unemployment Taxes:** On December 10, 2020 Governor Hogan issued an executive order to prevent small businesses from facing major increases in their unemployment taxes. Under this order, an employer's 2021 tax rate will be calculated based on their non-pandemic experience by excluding the 2020 fiscal year, and instead by using the last three fiscal years of 2017, 2018, and 2019. In addition, it would allow small businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 50 employees (that would be most of us in the horse industry) to defer unemployment insurance tax payments in calendar year 2021 to January 2022.
- **Safeguards Against Tax Increases; COVID Loan & Grant Forgiveness:** The Relief Act's loan and grant forgiveness plan would safeguard Maryland business owners against any tax increase triggered by the use of state loan or grant funds. This relief would come at a net zero cost to the state while saving businesses an estimated \$36 million. The Relief Act also includes an additional \$500 million in new funding for programs and grants for businesses and nonprofits. The Maryland Department of Commerce anticipated being able to accept applications for new Relief Act funding in late March.

The following programs, launched in 2020, are still available (as of press time) with more information on equiery.com:

- Maryland Economic Adjustment Fund (MEAF)
- US Small Business Administration's COVID-19 EIDL program
- Paycheck Protection Programs
- Maryland Nonprofit Recovery Initiative

Look Local

In addition, the state of Maryland and its local governments received billions from the various federal relief programs. Each county has set up a COVID-19 relief program in order to assist businesses negatively impacted by the pandemic, and thus the programs vary county-by-county.

Did you get a loan in 2020?

If you received a Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loan in 2020 in the first round of economic relief, that loan has been converted to a grant; to follow up, email covid-19.application@maryland.gov.

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Letter from the Executive Committee, continued...

METS Seeking Donations to Continue Assisting Horses in Need of New Homes

by Jessica Avila-Franco



The Maryland Equine Transition Service (METS)'s initial grant funding will be expiring in July 2021, meaning the program must then become self-sustaining and will be completely reliant on fundraising in order to continue helping horses. With \$70,000 of a \$170,000 annual budget still needing to be raised, METS is seeking grants, donors, and financial sponsors who want to see the program continue to help Maryland's horses for years to come.

For more information, visit www.mdequinetransition.org, to donate go to www.donatenow.networkforgood.org

METS is a statewide equine safety net initiative of the Maryland Horse Council Foundation (MHCF) that helps owners identify and select the most responsible options for their Maryland-based horses when they can no longer keep them. A horse can change homes upwards of seven times in its lifetime, increasing the chances of it falling into potentially dangerous situations, such as neglect, abuse, auction, or slaughter. Additionally, equine rescues across the nation are often at or over capacity, and regularly have to say "no" to owners requesting to surrender their horses. METS strives to address these concerns so that Maryland's horses can move safely and directly from one home to the next, effectively keeping

them safe while also assisting Maryland's rescues by diverting potential owner surrender cases.

Since its start in 2018, METS has been able to provide guidance to the owners of over 200 horses. In 2020, METS was able to transition 60 Maryland-based horses despite the pandemic restrictions, utilizing our virtual assessment program. Of note, METS' largest single case to date involved a group of 23 Thoroughbreds on the Eastern Shore. Their safe placements were truly a triumph in collaboration throughout the equine community. Neil Agate, President of the Maryland Horse Council, recounts the efforts made to ensure the safety of the horses, "It took patience, transparency, and assistance from industry partners, Maryland rescues, and private owners to find safe, appropriate home for each of the horses. As our program continues to grow, we strive to keep that spirit of collaboration strong in every transition we facilitate."

METS is a program of the Maryland Horse Council Foundation, a 501(c)(3) equine nonprofit organization. METS is currently accepting corporate business sponsors interested in supporting our Maryland-based program.

Companies are also encouraged to participate in our donation matching campaign, where every dollar donated to METS, would result in a matched donation from the company sponsor. For more information about participating, or questions please contact Jessica Avila-Franco, METS Development Officer at jessica@mdequinetransition.org.

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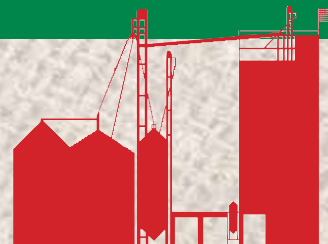
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EHV-1 Cases in Maryland

On March 9, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Animal Health Program issued a statement confirming two unrelated cases of Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) in Maryland. According to MDA, both horses developed clinical symptoms over the immediately preceding weekend and were confirmed positive for EHM on Monday, March 8. The horses were stabled in two different counties (Anne Arundel and Cecil) with no known connection.

The horse in Anne Arundel County was stabled at Laurel Park and displayed clinical symptoms on Saturday, March 6. The horse was sent to the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, VA, where the wild-type strain of Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1) was confirmed. EHV-1 is the virus that causes EHM. Currently, the horse is still at the medical center and is responding well to treatment.

MDA placed four barns at Laurel Park on a hold order, prohibiting movement on or off the premises until any exposed horses are cleared for release.

On March 19, MDA announced that a second horse in the same barn as the above horse at Laurel Park tested positive for EHV-1. This second horse was confirmed positive on March 15 and was euthanized after not responding to treatment.

Following this second positive case, MDA officials tested the remaining 20 horses housed in the same barn as the two positive horses on

March 17. Those tests returned six positive results from asymptomatic horses. All positive horses have been removed from the barn and placed in isolated quarantine offsite.

The original hold order on the four impacted barns has been reset, and horses in the index barn will be retested prior to releasing the order. MDA continues to work closely with Laurel Park and the Maryland Jockey Club to ensure that daily operations are able to continue as safely as possible with minimal disruption.

The horse in Cecil County was stabled at a private facility and began displaying clinical signs of EHM on March 5. According to MDA, this horse did not respond to treatment and was euthanized on March 6. Samples from the deceased horse were confirmed positive for EHM on March 8. This barn was also placed on a hold order with veterinary professionals monitoring the remaining horses. The hold order remains in place until all exposed horses have been cleared for release.

MDA asks owners to monitor horses at their premises carefully, and contact their private veterinarians to arrange for Equine Herpesvirus testing if a horse exhibits significant temperature elevations or neurologic signs. Veterinarians are required to report equine neurologic syndrome to the Department by calling the Animal Health Program at (410) 841-5810.

The Equiery will continue to monitor the situation and update our readers as additional information is released from MDA and/or MJC. Check equiery.com for updates and subscribe

for free notifications from our news site.

Reward for Info on September Shooting

The Harford County Police Department is still looking for more information related to two horses being shot in their pastures on September 25, 2020. Initial investigation has indicated that horses Tilly and Hey Kid were shot sometime between 11:20pm and 12:00am the night before. The investigation is still active and anyone with information is asked to call Harford Crime Solvers at 1-888-540-8477 or report a tip online at <http://www.harfordsheriff.org/wanted>. There is a cash reward of \$5,000 for information that leads to an arrest in the case.

CTR Forms New Advisory Council

Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding in Harford has created a new CTR Advisory Council to advocate for the organization within the community. The council will also advise the Board of Directors and Executive Director Cathy Schmidt.

"Forming an Advisory Council has been a priority since we purchased our 'forever farm' in later 2019," said Phil Wohlfort, President of CTR's Board of Directors. "We greatly appreciate the willingness of these highly respected individuals in our community to serve. Their advocacy and guidance will be invaluable."

For more information and a complete list of Advisory Council members, see CTRChangingLives.org.

continued...

Carlton Street Stables Open House *photos provided by MHIB*



On March 7, Baltimore City's historic Carlton Street Stables, owned by Levar Mullen, held a community open house to celebrate the stable's becoming the first Arabber stable to be named a Maryland Licensed Stable by the Maryland Horse Industry Board. This is the first step towards the Arabbers' long-term goal of establishing the City's first certified Maryland Horse Discovery Center.

The stable is currently developing a robust horsemanship-based educational program that reflects Baltimore's rich equine history. It also offers private riding lessons by appointment with CHA licensed instructor Charish Arthur.

Carlton Street Stables also earned the prestigious Maryland State Arts Council Heritage Award, which recognizes long-term achievement in folklife or community-based living cultural traditions.

To read more about the history of Arabbing in Maryland, visit equiery.com and search for "Arabber."

IF YOU HAVE NEWS, VIEWS OR UPDATES TO CONTRIBUTE, PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE EDITOR at The Equiery, P.O. Box 610, Lisbon, MD 21765 • FAX: 410-489-7828 • email editor@equiery.com. Be sure to include your full name, phone number and address. All submissions become the property of The Equiery.

Preakness 146 is On for May 2021

The Maryland Jockey Club has confirmed that the 146th running of the Preakness Stakes will go on as planned this May in its normal “Middle Jewel” spot of the Triple Crown. The date for the \$1 million stakes race is May 15th, with the Black-Eyed Susan running on May 14.

In addition, the spring stakes schedule includes \$3.25 million in purses with 16 stakes races and 10 graded races. The Preakness Meet at Pimlico program will open May 7 and run through May 31.

IEA Offers Travel Grant

The Muzzy Family and MZ Farms recently established a five-year, \$100,000 grant to assist the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) and qualified riders, who demonstrate financial need, in attending the yearly National Finals. The new “Travel Grant” will be allocated \$20,000 per year to be divided among approximately ten riders each year. The 2021 IEA Hunt Seat Finals this April will mark the start of the grant program.

For this season, the 10 grants will be allocated as follows: six for the Hunt Seat Finals, two for the Dressage Finals and two for the Western Finals. The Travel Grant will provide funds to assist in expenses related to the IEA National Finals for the rider, a guardian and a coach.

“Steve and I are so very pleased to support the IEA,” said Cathy Muzzy. “Our daughter rides in the IEA and she has had the most wonderful experience. We hope this Travel Grant will help a rider make it to the Finals without burdening their family.”

For more information on how to apply, visit rideiea.org.

2020 Renaissance Awards

On March 2, the fourth annual Renaissance Awards ceremony was presented virtually this

year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association and Maryland Jockey Club put these awards together to recognize excellence in Thoroughbred racing and breeding here in Maryland.

Maryland-bred Knicks Go was named Maryland-bred Horse of the Year as well as Champion Older Male. Owned by Korea Racing Authority and trained by Brad H. Cox, Knicks Go capped off this season with winning the \$1,000,000 Breeders’ Cup Dirt Mile (G1). Bred here in Maryland by Angie Moore, Knicks Go was sold as a weanling for \$40,000 in 2016 and later purchased for \$87,000 as a yearling by Korea Racing Authority. He is only the fifth Maryland-bred to win a Breeders’ Cup race. Moore was named 2020 Maryland Breeder of the Year.

Jaxon Traveler, a 2018 colt by Munnings, won the Champion 2-Year-Old Male award for owners West Point Thoroughbreds and Marvin Delfiner. Trained by Steven M. Asmussen, he was bred by Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau. In 2020, he won the Maryland Juvenile Futurity. So far he is undefeated, winning three for three.

Street Lute won the Champion 2-Year-Old Filly award after winning all but one of her seven starts in 2020. She finished second in the Maryland Million Lassie Stakes. Owned by Lucky 7 Stables, the daughter of Street Magician was bred by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman, and is trained by John J. Robb.

Bred by Mark Brown Grier and owned by Three Diamonds Farm, Field Pass (by Lemon Drop Kid) earned the 2020 Champion 3-Year-Old Male title. He won five out of ten starts in 2020 and placed three times with trainer Michael J. Maker.

Sharing, who was named 2019 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year and Champion 2-Year-Old

Filly, came back in 2020 to win the Champion 3-Year-Old Filly and Champion Turf Runner titles. The Speightstown daughter was bred by Sagamore Farm and is owned by Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Gainesway Stable. Trained by H. Graham Motion, Sharing won the Edgewood Stakes (G2) in 2020 as well as running second overseas in the Coronation Stakes (England). She has been retired from racing due to a paddock injury this past January.

Never Enough Time took the Champion Older Female title for breeder and owner R. Larry Johnson. Trained by Michael J. Trombetta, this 2016 mare is by Munnings and won three times in 2020, finishing second twice and third once out of eight starts.

The 2013 son of Cuba, Laki, earned Champion Sprinter for 2020. Bred by Tom Michaels and Lorna Baker, Laki continues to have an impressive stakes career winning twice in 2020 and finishing second twice. Owned by Hillside Equestrian Meadows and trained by Damon R. Dilodovico, Laki was the 2018 Maryland-bred Champion Older Male.

Love’s Reason, dam of 2019 Maryland-bred Champion Older Female Majestic Reason, earned the 2020 Maryland Broodmare of the Year award while Great Notion was named Maryland Stallion of the Year. Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Hillwood Stables LLC own Love’s Reason. Great Notion, owned by Northview Stallion Station, has earned this title five years in a row.

Robert Bone was named Maryland Owner of the Year with Claudio Gonzalez earning the Maryland Trainer of the Year title. Tevor McCarthy was crowned Maryland Jockey of the Year. Edgar Gallegos was honored as Pimlico’s Backstretch Worker of the Year with Antonio Lopez Salazar being Laurel’s Backstretch Employee of the Year. Victor Carrasco was named MTHA’s Unsung Hero.

continued...

Jenn Emmart Earns Community Heroes Award *photos provided by MHIB*



Jenn Emmart, Greenwell Foundation’s Equestrian Director received the highest honor a non-Rotarian can receive, the Rotary Community Heroes Award named for Paul Harris, Rotary’s Founder.

Emmart was nominated by Lisa Blackwell, District 7620 President and a member of Greenwell Foundation’s Board of Trustees. Blackwell made the nomination because of the extraordinary work Emmart has done throughout the pandemic to care for Greenwell’s herd of horses, and all their animals, and for continuing important Greenwell Programs that serve adults and children with and without disabilities at Greenwell State Park.

Emmart and her staff have served the St. Mary’s County community by continuing to offer the therapeutic programming – riding lessons, trail rides, Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT) – that our neighbors have needed so much during these very difficult times. A highpoint of service was when Emmart and Greenwell Executive Director Jolanda Campbell brought ponies to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for a day-long visit with residents.

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Ayers Saint Gross To Rebuild Pimlico

On February 23, the Maryland Stadium Authority announced that the Baltimore-based company Ayers Saint Gross has been selected to head the rebuilding of Pimlico Race Course. The vote to select this group of architects and engineers was the first major public action towards the project that was approved by the Maryland General Assembly last year. According to Baltimore Brew online magazine, Ayers Saint Gross was unanimously selected over nine other teams that issued proposals for the project.

Maryland Horse Library & Education Center

On March 15, the Maryland Horse Foundation announced the launching of a \$1 million Capital Campaign to establish a new Maryland Horse Library and Education Center in the heart of historic Reisterstown. The new center will be housed at the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's building on Main Street.

The goal of the center is to not only house an expansive collection of books and reference

materials, but to also foster and promote education, community ties and passion to ensure the longevity of the Maryland horse industry. In addition to the library itself, the center will include a memorabilia area, meeting space, interactive kiosks and rotating exhibits.

Educational programs will be offered to engage a wide audience of equine-inclined youth, the general public and lifelong industry participants. Visitors will learn about Maryland's champion horses and riders while engaging with all facets of the state's diverse equine industry.

"The way [into the horse industry] is through learning, so that's the most exciting aspect of this project," said co-chair of the Capital Campaign and Maryland Horse Foundation President Josh Pons. "There's someone out there who has a passion for the game but just doesn't know how to get started, and we could be that gateway for people, the portal where people come through the door in Reisterstown and go 'wow, I met someone really interesting doing research in that library.'"

The goal of the Capital Campaign is to raise

\$1 million to update 3,500 square feet of space in the historic building, purchase furnishings, integrate current audio/visual technologies and support ongoing operational costs.

NYRA Incentives for Horses Based at Fair Hill

On February 13, the New York Racing Association (NYRA) announced the return of a shipping incentive program at Aqueduct Race-track and Belmont Park for horsemen based at the Fair Hill Training Center (Elkton) and Oaklawn Park (Arkansas).

As part of the program, horses stabled at FHTC who register an official start during the Aqueduct spring meet (April 1-18) or during the Belmont spring/summer meet (April 22-July 11) will see their owners credited with an \$800 shipping stipend. The program excludes stake races. A first-time starter must have its previous three workouts at Fair Hill in order to be eligible.

The program conditions for horses at Oaklawn Park are slightly different. For more information, see <https://www.nyra.com/aqueduct/>.

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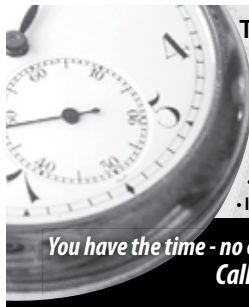
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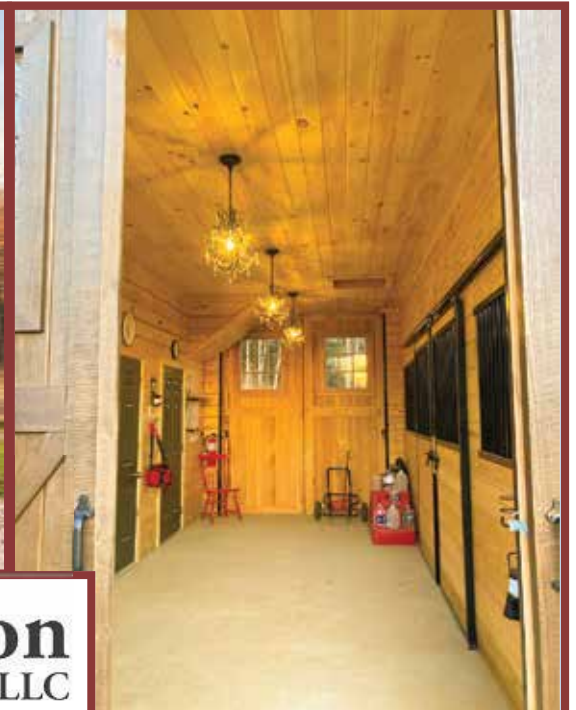


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Horses and Preserving the Natural Environment

by Jane Thery, MHC Farm Stewardship Committee Chair

Are horses good for the environment? With good management practices, horse farms can be champions for a clean environment.

There are now more horses in the United States than ever in history. In Maryland there are more horses per square mile than in any other state in the country. About one quarter of Maryland's agricultural land is in horse farms.

With increasing interest in environmental action and a strong commitment to protecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay, there is an ongoing discussion of how our horse industry does and could do more to contribute to a "greener" world.

Horse farms have some great environmental features. Unlike cows, sheep and goats, horses are not ruminants so do not produce the powerful greenhouse gas methane. Horses are grazing animals and thrive on healthy pastures. The grasses of a well-managed pasture filter water, fix carbon in the soil, provide open space and wildlife habitat.

Woodlots on horse farms fix carbon and support the bird population.

Horse manure that is composted and used as a soil amendment is a natural source of locally-produced nutrients.

Barn and arena roofs are ideal places for solar panels to generate renewable energy.

Barns with natural light and natural ventilation are good for horses and reduce energy use.

Trail riders connect to the natural world and promote the protection of and access to public lands.

The larger horse farms with plenty of pasture are great for the environment. Smaller farms are a plus if the pastures are not overstocked and get regular mowing, overseeding, dragging and fertilizing as needed. Soil samples are a great guide to targeting needed nutrients.

Keeping horses near population centers benefits the general public by enhancing the visible landscape and preserving open space, but it can be challenging as open land is scarce and expensive. Extra care and investment are needed to avoid overstocking fields and paddocks, managing manure and controlling run-off from barns, arenas, parking lots and riding rings. There are three strong reasons for making this investment.

First and foremost is the health of the horses. Sufficient space to move around supports the horses' circulatory and digestive systems that are designed for regular movement. Elimination of mud prevents thrush and scratches. Proper manure management reduces the parasite and fly population. Fresh air reduces the transfer of pathogens and allergens. Well-drained and springy riding surfaces protect tendons and ligaments.

Second, horse owners, stable clients and especially the younger generation are increasingly serious about the environmental impact of their activities. How "green" are equestrian sports, and all sports activities, is now part of the discussion for managing practice and competition venues. Putting sound environmental practices in place on a horse farm and celebrating this achievement is good for business and a positive image for people in the horse community.

Third, good relations with the horse farm neighbors is essential for riding establishments to remain accessible to recreational and competitive riders in cities and towns. Proper manure management, including proper storage and hauling off, can avoid complaints of leaking piles and flies. Water control is important to minimize erosion and run-off onto others' property. Of course, quality fencing and a neat appearance is welcome in any community.

Yes, horses can be champions of a clean, green environment. Horse farms can help fix carbon, clean water and provide wildlife habitat. Horses connect us to the natural world and provide outdoor sport and recreation. And they are beautiful creatures. A well-managed horse farm, with rolling green pastures and grazing horses, is a wonderful sight for horse lovers and passersby alike.



Jane Thery founded the Maryland Horse Council Farm Stewardship Committee in 2011 to promote environmentally-sound practices for horse health and the natural world. During these difficult pandemic days where meetings are either virtual or not at all, the Maryland Horse Council uses social media to send out weekly tips on farm stewardship to our horse community. Ms. Thery's company, Green Horse Enterprises, supports the "greening" of horse farms and competition venues in the mid-Atlantic.

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Maryland Survey

Solar Power Experiences & Advancements

By Katherine O. Rizzo & Kimberly K. Egan

It has been five years since we last polled *Equiery* readers about solar power... and a lot has changed since then. Established companies have bought up start up entities, regulators have loosened restrictions, solar technology has advanced significantly, and new solar products have come on-line. Costs have also dropped.

The three biggest changes in the last five years are:

- Prices have dropped over 45% since 2014;
- Maryland now permits residential solar batteries to store energy for later use;
- Solar power manufacturers have introduced solar roofing tiles to replace more cumbersome solar panels.

We decided that with so many changes in the solar marketplace, it was time to send out a new survey. This time, we asked readers about reliability, costs, energy production, energy storage, and more. We also asked readers who don't have solar power to tell us why not.

Interestingly, 59.6% of our survey participants do not have solar power on their properties with 40.4% saying they do have solar power.

Solar Placement & Packages

Of the 40.4% survey participants who said they do have solar power, 55% have panels on their homes while 20% have panels on their barns. Ten percent have panels on farm out-buildings, and 5% have them on indoor arenas. Another 5% have stand-alone panels, and 5% clicked "other."

The majority (80%) of participants with solar power installed the systems themselves while 20% inherited solar power when purchasing their property. Most (56.3%) participants installed their system after our 2016 survey was published with 43.7% installing before 2016. The earliest installation of solar power for our survey participants was 2013.

In terms of types of contracts, 43.8% signed a purchase agreement, which means they purchased the panels outright and are responsible for the maintenance. The next most popular type of contract was a lease agreement, with 31.3%, which means the lessee pays a fixed rent in return for the right to use the solar system and to recoup the savings of any excess energy the system generates.

Six point three percent have a pre-paid power purchase agreement, which means that instead of renting the system or buying the system, the person agrees to buy the power generated by the system and pays an up-front payment to cover estimated energy needs over the term of the agreement. Under this agreement, the person has no monthly obligations except for any energy used in excess of that generated by the system.

And finally, another 6.3% have a non-prepaid power purchase agreement. This means the person agrees to pay for the power it uses from the system each month at a pre-set price. For both of these power purchase agreement models, the homeowner buys future power at today's rates, which results in substantial savings.

Several participants clicked "other" with one participant saying there was no cost to them with an agreement to maintain the system for 20 years. Another participant stated they did not sign any sort of agreement or contract.

Solar Providers

Our survey participants reported that they have solar power systems installed by the following companies American Solar Company, Aurora Energy, Solar City (now Tesla), Solar Run, Sungevity and Paradise Energy. The majority (78.5%) of participants used Solar City/Tesla.

We should note that there are many more options for solar power than just the companies listed above. Indeed, there are over 90 solar installation companies in Maryland, and 26% of our survey respondents did not tell us which one of those 90+ options they used.

Because there are so many options for installers and so many options for financing, several survey participants recommended that anyone shopping for solar power do plenty of research to find the plan and the provider that works best for them.

Customer Satisfaction

Overall, 78.9% of participants with solar power said they are happy with their system with 55.6% stating they would purchase again with the same vendor and same contract terms. A small percentage (5.6%) stated they would use the same vendor again but with different contract terms.

Aurora Energy, Paradise Energy, Sun Run and Sungevity all had positive reviews with participants saying they were both happy with the vendor and happy with their contract terms.

Solar City/Tesla had mixed reviews, with 60% stating they were happy with the company and 40% stating they were unhappy. Those who said they were unhappy, however, were not unhappy with the system itself, but rather, with customer service or with communication challenges.

In general, 16.7% of participants stated that if they had to do it again, they would install using a different vendor. Twenty-two point two percent stated they would not purchase solar power again.

Generating Power

The purpose of installing solar power is to save money on electrical expenses for the home and/or farm in addition to creating and using an en-

continued...

Maryland Solar Stats

As of December 2020...

- Maryland has 1,293.92 MW of solar power installed across the state.
- Maryland is currently ranked 17th in the nation in terms of the amount of solar power generated.
- Over 4,800 jobs are created in Maryland due to the solar power industry.
- 4.17% of Maryland's electricity is produced from solar power.
- The price of solar power systems in Maryland has decreased by 45% over the past five years.
- The solar industry has invested over \$3 million in Maryland.
- The year 2016 saw the biggest boom in residential solar power installation in Maryland.
- There are 178 solar companies operating in Maryland: 11 manufacturers, 93 installers/developers, and 74 other.

Statistics from www.seia.org/states



Woodvale Farm

Solar was always part of Joe Herzog's bigger plan to continually upgrade Woodvale Farm (Frederick County) with environmentally friendly and fiscally prudent practices and systems. Working with Paradise Energy Solutions, a 270 panel, 87.75 kW system was installed on the indoor, producing 99,036 kW annually, or 101% of the farms energy needs, which meant linking together the farm's four separate meters. Being able to link the meters to one solar system was critical for Joe: "The other companies kind of hemmed and hawed a bit and said 'well we're not sure that we can do that' and Paradise, basically from the get-go, said 'we do this all the time.'" 71% of the installation cost was covered by federal and state tax credits and grants, and Joe expects to break even on the installation costs after six years.

Maryland Survey: Solar Power Experiences & Advancements



Waredaca

The solar panels at Waredaca (Montgomery County) were installed by Aurora Energy in November of 2019. Robert Butts reported, "we did not see significant savings until spring, but have been very pleased with the performance since then." Butts purchased the panels by taking advantage of a USDA grant program. "Familiarity with the grant program was one of the reasons we went with Aurora, and they did not disappoint. We are very pleased with the process and the outcome," Butts added.



Dressage At Sundown

Installed by Solar City, now Tesla, in June 2014, the panels at Dressage at Sundown (Montgomery County) are located on the house only and produce more energy than the residence needs. "I don't regret what we did, but I would sure like to expand the system," said Paul Schopf. "Now, I see that doing so is much more complicated."

Environmentally clean energy source. But does it work? Seventy-seven point eight percent of survey participants say yes!

Under peak solar conditions, most participants said their systems generate more power than they use, which allows them to sell power back to the grid.

Half of the participants with solar said they produce more than their energy needs for their properties, while the other half said they produce close to 100% of their needs. A few participants said they wish they had more panels in order to produce more energy as their current systems can only power lights versus additional items such as stall fans.

Storing Power

One of the more recent changes in Maryland is the State now allows residential solar storage batteries. Storage batteries allow homeowners to store energy in their batteries for later use, whether at night or during a power outage. Many roof-top systems can generate enough power, under peak conditions, to run the house, charge the batteries, and still have power left over to sell back to the grid.

Storage batteries are smaller than many generators and can be designed to take up very little floor space. They must be installed in a place protected from the elements, most often in a basement or a garage. Many companies manufacture solar batteries, one of the most popular, again, being Solar City/Tesla. Batteries can be purchased after the initial system is installed, or they can be designed into the system at the outset.

The majority (75%) of our solar power participants do not currently have storage batteries with 66.7% of those wanting to know more about them. For the 25% who do have storage batteries, all stated they are located inside a home or other building on the property.

Why Not Solar?

A majority of survey participants said they do not currently have solar power on their property, and of those, 60.7% stated they thought it was too expensive. A minority (14.3%) had concerns about reliability, and an additional 10.7% said they did not have enough information to make a decision on installing solar power or not. No survey participants clicked the "lack of space" option. Fourteen percent of the participants who don't have solar power selected "other" as the reason.

The participants who chose "other" expressed concern about safety generally and possible roof damage specifically. Others felt that solar companies made unrealistic promises.

Two participants said they were concerned about "solar farming" taking over agricultural land and open green space. One participant suggested adding solar systems to buildings within cities and suburbs instead of creating solar farming in agricultural reserves.

Industrial-sized solar power generating facilities, aka "solar farms," are permitted in Maryland, and Maryland generates about 4% of its energy from solar power. Each county has its own zoning rules about where commercial solar installations can be located and what restrictions apply to their operations.

There has been recent legislative activity in Montgomery and Howard Counties on land use issues for solar farms, and at the State level on net metering, which activities we discuss in more detail in this month's Government Relations column on page 41 of this issue.

Of those who do not currently have solar power, 64.3% said they would consider adding it to their property while 25% said "possibly" and 10.7% said no.

In general, most participants who do not currently have solar power want clear information and details on the actual cost of the system

continued...



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Maryland Survey: Solar Power Experiences & Advancements

throughout its life span as well as more information on reliability.

Solar Benefits

The general consensus when it comes to the benefits of solar power is that the saved energy costs in terms of reducing utility bills is worth the installation. Many participants also stated that using solar makes them feel better about their carbon footprint and the benefits to the planet as a whole.

In addition, there are several grant programs here in Maryland that will help with costs of installation as well as tax incentives at the federal level for those who use solar power. For more information on how to finance solar power on your property, go to <https://www.energysage.com/solar/financing/>

Additional Helpful Links

Maryland Energy Administration

<https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/Info/renewable/solar.aspx>

The Equiery's April 2016 Solar Article

<http://equiery.com/going-green-solar-power/>



Brave Venture Farm

There are 99 solar panels on one side of the 110-foot barn at Brave Venture Farm (Carroll County) that were installed by American Solar Company. "Excellent installation, easily monitored on computer and they service and maintain," said Jane Sachetti. "We got a 50% tax credit several years ago on the entire purchase price and they have been well worth the investment. BGE actually pays us at the end of each year." The system on the barn also powers Sachetti's 6,000 square foot home. "American Solar provides a lifetime guarantee," she added saying that the one time she needed a repair, the company came out within 24 hours to fix. Sachetti recommends owning the panels outright versus leasing them.



Brooke Grove Farm

After Brooke Grove Farm (Montgomery County) lost its indoor during the 2010 "snowmagedon," owner Dr. Charles Mess decided that the new indoor would be better than the old. This included "going green" as much as possible, which meant utilizing the massive roof to produce energy for the farm. His 52 panel 10.92 kW system, installed by the now defunct Greenspring Energy Company, was manufactured by Schuco Solar Electric System. The system has provided most of the farm's entire electrical needs, virtually eliminating monthly electrical bills. In 2010, the system cost \$58,000 to install, which was reduced by approximately \$30,000 in federal, state and county tax credits and/or grants. Now ten years old, the system has only needed servicing once, and Dr. Mess was able to easily find another company to do so.

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EQUINE DISPOSAL GUIDE FOR MARYLAND HORSE OWNERS

By University of Maryland Extension (updated by Olivia Wood from UMD's December 2014 article)

Owning an equine means you, as the owner, accept responsibility for the animal's health and well-being. However, the time may come when your equine will suffer injury, sickness, old age, lameness, or dangerous behaviors that will result in the trying task of deciding what is best for your equine. In some cases, the kindest and most humane decision is to have the animal euthanized. Your veterinarian can guide you in deciding if euthanasia is appropriate.

Having to euthanize an equine is a topic not often discussed, so deciding when, where, and how is not easy. Making such a decision is often emotionally taxing for an equine owner.

Management and disposal of deceased animals is a normal part of raising livestock. Proper equine disposal is important whether the cause of the death was expected or unexpected.

Having a plan and the necessary information regarding on- and off-farm disposal options will help make the circumstances of disposing of an equine less stressful. In general, be sure you know the acceptable disposal options available in your county. Always check the local ordinances and with county agencies to ensure that you use proper disposal methods. If an equine carcass must be removed from the farm, it should be covered completely with a tarp during transport.

Importance of Proper Disposal of Equine Carcasses

It is important to properly dispose of an equine carcass in a timely manner for the following reasons:

- Health - the timely removal of a dead animal limits the spread of disease and prevents other animals from becoming sick.
- Environmental Protection - timely disposal protects waterways and groundwater from contamination by limiting potential toxins that may be released from a decomposing animal.
- Appearance - neighbors and the general public may find the sight of a deceased equine unappealing or even distressful, leaving a negative opinion of the equine owner's operation and management skills.

Once an equine has died, a disposal method should be chosen that is most acceptable to the equine owner, does not spread disease, does not endanger public health and does not negatively impact the environment.

State and Local Authorities

Be sure to check with State and local authorities before selecting a disposal method as permitted disposal methods vary throughout the State. State and local agencies that may be contacted include but are not limited to:

- Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)
- Maryland Department of Health (MDH)
- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- County Animal Control offices

In addition, it is strongly encouraged to check with county zoning prior to carcass disposal within a county or town limits. Remember, laws and regulations can change, so always double check local and state regulations before disposing of an equine carcass for any changes or updates that may have occurred.

Don't forget! Check your county codes and regulations for current equine disposal options in your area.

Maryland counties generally follow State regulations pertaining to animal carcass disposal. According to the Code of Regulations (COMAR) for Maryland, disposal regulations for the State are as follows:

- 3-108 Maryland Code - When any animal is slaughtered under the provisions of the subtitle, the owner may dispose of the carcass or any part of it, the hides, and offal, pursuant to the departmental rules and regulations, and in a manner that does not tend to spread disease or endanger the public health.
- 3-109 Maryland Code - The owner of any domestic animal that has died of a contagious or infectious disease shall bury it to a depth of at least three feet or burn it within three hours before sunset of the day following the discovery of the animal.

For current information, visit the Maryland Department of Agriculture's website www.mda.maryland.gov or contact MDA directly at 410-841-5700.

Maryland Law

Maryland law requires disposal of a deceased equine within 48 hours of its death. If an owner or manager does not dispose of a carcass properly, the Maryland Health Department will

become involved.

Here in Maryland, the following options for disposing of an equine carcass are available:

- Composting
- Cremation/incineration
- Burial

Allowing the carcass to decay in a pasture or an open area is not encouraged in Maryland. Generally, there is not enough land available away from neighbors or the public to make this a viable option for equine owners. A naturally decomposing carcass may contaminate surface and groundwater. Chemical euthanasia also poses a risk of poisoning scavenging wildlife, livestock, and pets.

Regardless of the method chosen by the equine owner or manager, the carcass must be disposed of within 48 hours according to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). MDA also specifies that any animal that died of an infectious or reportable disease must be disposed of according to MDA guidelines.

Composting

Composting is considered the most environmentally safe disposal method, providing the composting process is done correctly. Composting is cost efficient, kills pathogens, is biosecure, environmentally sound, and easily accomplished.

The composting process is carried out using specific moisture and temperature levels during set periods of time. The time required varies depending on the size of the equine. Larger animals require more time.

Composting requires carbon sources, such as woodchips or shavings. The composting site should be located in a well-drained area away from wells and other water sources. The carbon source will completely breakdown the equine carcass in addition to providing organic material that can be used as a soil amendment. Owners may use this material in planting a "memorial tree" for the deceased equine.

Composting can be done any time of the year, regardless of the size of equine.

For more information on how to set up a proper composting site, see the sidebar in this article.

Cremation or Incineration

Incineration is the thermal destruction of a carcass by fuel such as propane or natural gas, also known as burning. While an incinerator may be installed on a farm for large animals, it

Equine End of Life Resources

For a complete and current list of equine end of life resources such as removal companies and crematories, please **contact the Maryland Equine Transition Service at 410-970-6474** or visit mdequinetransition.org

is often too expensive due to the cost of natural gas and the significant amount of labor needed, especially for equine operations. This disposal method is more appropriate for small animals.

Furthermore, open-air burning of deceased animals is not recommended because of the odor and potential air pollutants. Maryland has a ban on open-air burning from June 1 to September 1 of each year for most counties.

Cremation is the same as incineration; but, the ashes of the animal are returned to the equine owner. This disposal option allows for the owner to retain a physical part of their animal and can be expensive.

If a necropsy has been performed at a Maryland Animal Health Lab, cremation is usually available. Some laboratories will cremate a deceased equine for a fee levied on a per-weight basis.

There are also a variety of private pet crematories that provide services for equines, many of which offer pick-up services. Fees will vary depending on location within the state and services requested.

Burial

Burial regulations differ throughout the State due to varying soil types. An equine cannot be buried in a wetland, floodplain, shoreline, high water table area or near a well. Check with local ordinances that may restrict or limit burial.

Due to the strict guidelines and regulations surrounding equine burial, it may be easiest to utilize the services of a private company to bury a deceased equine. Private companies that provide off-site burial services are relatively limited in the Maryland area, however.

If you wish to bury on your own property and doing so is allowed, bury the equine at a minimum depth of six feet, liming over the carcass (for pathogen reduction) before backfilling with three feet of soil. An equine must be buried so that it will not contaminate or allow leachable discharge into waterways. It is important that domestic animals and wildlife not be able to access the carcass.

It may be necessary to hire a service or rent equipment to dig a hole large and deep enough for equine burial. The cost of burial will depend on the location and availability of equipment and operators.

Necropsy and Disposal

Equine owners in Maryland can send equine carcasses to a Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health Lab to have a necropsy conducted. The lab will arrange for the disposal of the body.

Animal carcasses cannot be returned following a necropsy. For an additional charge however, an equine can be cremated and the ashes returned to the owner from the Frederick Animal Health Lab.

Composting: An Environmentally-Friendly Method of Deceased Equine Disposal

By *Olivia Wood, Equiery intern*

When dealing with the loss of a beloved horse, it can be difficult to think about the logistics of properly disposing of a horse carcass. Figuring out the right option can be stressful and time consuming, especially if you live in an area with limited access to transport or cremation services. The less traditional method of composting an equine carcass may be an option for you depending on your county's regulations and how much space you have on your property. Some larger farms in Maryland are beginning to offer composting options for horse owners who do not want to compost on their own properties.

While composting might not be the most conventional method of carcass disposal, when done properly, it can serve as an environmentally-friendly and low-cost option, making it a worthy method to consider. By composting, you are helping to facilitate an environmentally-sound method of breaking down the horse carcass while simultaneously creating a compost that can eventually be repurposed.

Breaking it Down: How to Compost

MATERIALS

At first thought, the notion of composting an entire horse carcass may seem daunting. After all, composting is somewhat of a science. But, like any proper science project, it all starts with obtaining the right materials.

There are four key materials needed for proper composting: coarse carbon material; clean, dry wood shavings; manure mixture and, perhaps most importantly, a horse carcass.

The coarse carbon material serves as the base of the compost pile. Such a material could be playground wood chips or chopped corn stalks. This material will provide the ideal amount of airflow to the microbes that break down the horse carcass.

The wood shavings simply soak up fluid from the carcass as it is composted.

The manure mixture serves several key purposes: increasing biological activity, maintaining moisture, keeping curious wildlife away from the compost, and, ironically, controlling odor. An ideal manure mixture for composting purposes is two parts horse stall waste to one part cattle manure. Take care to ensure that the moisture level in the manure mixture is ideal. It should be just moist enough that it can be molded into a ball, but not so wet that excess liquid drips from it.

The horse carcass itself provides the nitrogen that is vital to the composting process. Make sure you remove any non-compostable objects from the horse carcass before composting such as horse shoes.

Once you have these four key components,

you're ready to begin composting.

METHODS

Before starting, choose a proper site for constructing the compost pile. This site should be in a high, dry area that will not collect water and at least 200 feet from wells or any other sources of water. The area on which the compost pile will be constructed should be easily accessible and solid enough to allow for the maneuvering of equipment. Also consider general wind direction in your area and take care to place the pile out of the line of sight of neighbors and motorists.

With a proper location chosen, you are ready to begin composting. Essentially, this process is simply combining different materials with specific properties in the correct proportions.

The first step is constructing the carbon base. Using your selected coarse carbon material to create a thick base layer, about 18 to 24 inches deep. The overall size of the layer depends on the size of the carcass, but it might be anywhere from 14 to 18 feet long and 12 to 15 feet wide. Regardless, on all sides of the carcass, there should be 18 to 24 inches between the edges of the carcass and the edges of the carbon base.

Next, spread clean, dry wood shavings over the carbon base, three to four inches deep. Keep the shavings toward the center of the pile; this is where you will later lay the carcass.

Following the dry wood shavings, add a little bit of the manure mixture—just one to two inches to help aid the breakdown process from below the carcass.

With the base fully constructed, it is time to gently lay the carcass out flat on top. As long as there are 18 to 24 inches of space around all sides of the carcass, it does not matter what direction the carcass is facing.

Finally, complete the composting pile by covering the carcass with 18 to 24 inches of manure mixture. Try to create a domed peak, as this shape will help the compost pile shed rainwater. Use a probe and measuring tool to ensure the manure layer is deep enough. Once finished, the compost pile should be between five and seven feet tall.

MANAGEMENT

Once the compost pile is constructed, the hard work is done. Now, you just have to make sure the compost pile does its job. Doing so means filling cracks and depressions in the pile, monitoring the pile temperature, and turning the compost pile.

Within one week of construction, depressions and cracks will form in the peak of the pile as the carcass collapses. To avoid letting

continued...

Composting: An Environmentally-Friendly Method of Deceased Equine Disposal

the pile release odors that will attract animals, routinely check the compost pile and fill in any cracks or depressions with more manure mixture, either by raking existing mixture over or adding new.

Temperature is indicative of how well your compost pile is doing. When microbes break down the carcass in the pile, they produce heat. It is recommended to check and record compost pile temperatures daily for the first 10 days of composting, then periodically after.

In order to measure the temperature, use a 36-inch stem thermometer, and check at least two locations of the pile, one at 18 inches deep, the other at 36 inches deep. Within the first week after constructing the pile, temperatures should reach 130 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit and remain at these high temperatures for seven to 10 days.

Temperatures will also indicate when the pile is ready to be turned. Once temperatures steadily decline below 130 degrees Fahrenheit, it is time to turn the pile. The compost pile is

typically at temperatures cool enough for turning seven to nine weeks after the pile has been constructed. This timeframe also ensures that most of the carcass has already broken down prior to completing the turning process. Use a skid loader or small tractor to mix and fluff the pile. Then, reform the pile into a mound shape and check for any exposed bones or other parts of the carcass, taking care to cover them. After turning, the compost pile will reheat to temperatures over 130 degrees Fahrenheit once again, and further breakdown in the pile will occur. Finally, the compost pile will enter the cool phase and begin the process of curing. A week or so after turning, pile temperatures will fall below 130 degrees Fahrenheit. The pile enters the cool phase once temperatures fall below 110 degrees Fahrenheit and will remain in this phase for four to five months. Composting materials will continue to break down during this time. Once this curing process is complete, the compost will be more uniform; only some larger bones will remain.

Now What?

A year after beginning the composting process, your compost pile should be odor-free and about one third of the original size. The compost can be used as carbon material for future composting, or it can be applied to the land as a soil additive.

Be sure to remove any large bones left in the compost before applying to land and be aware that, in Maryland, mortality compost may only be applied to the land on the farm where the compost was generated. Also, do not apply the mortality compost on any crops that are going to be consumed by people; stick to hay, corn, winter wheat, tree plantations, and forestland.

Another potential use for the compost is in the planting of a memorial tree for your deceased equine. This tends to be more environmentally-friendly than spreading of ashes, plus allows for a memorial spot to commemorate your horse.

The following sources were used for this article:

- "Constructing and managing a horse carcass compost pile" from the University of Minnesota Extension (<https://extension.umn.edu/composting-livestock-and-poultry-carcasses/horse-carcass-compost-pile>)
- "Equine Disposal Guide for Maryland Horse Owners" from the University of Maryland Extension

In Memoriam

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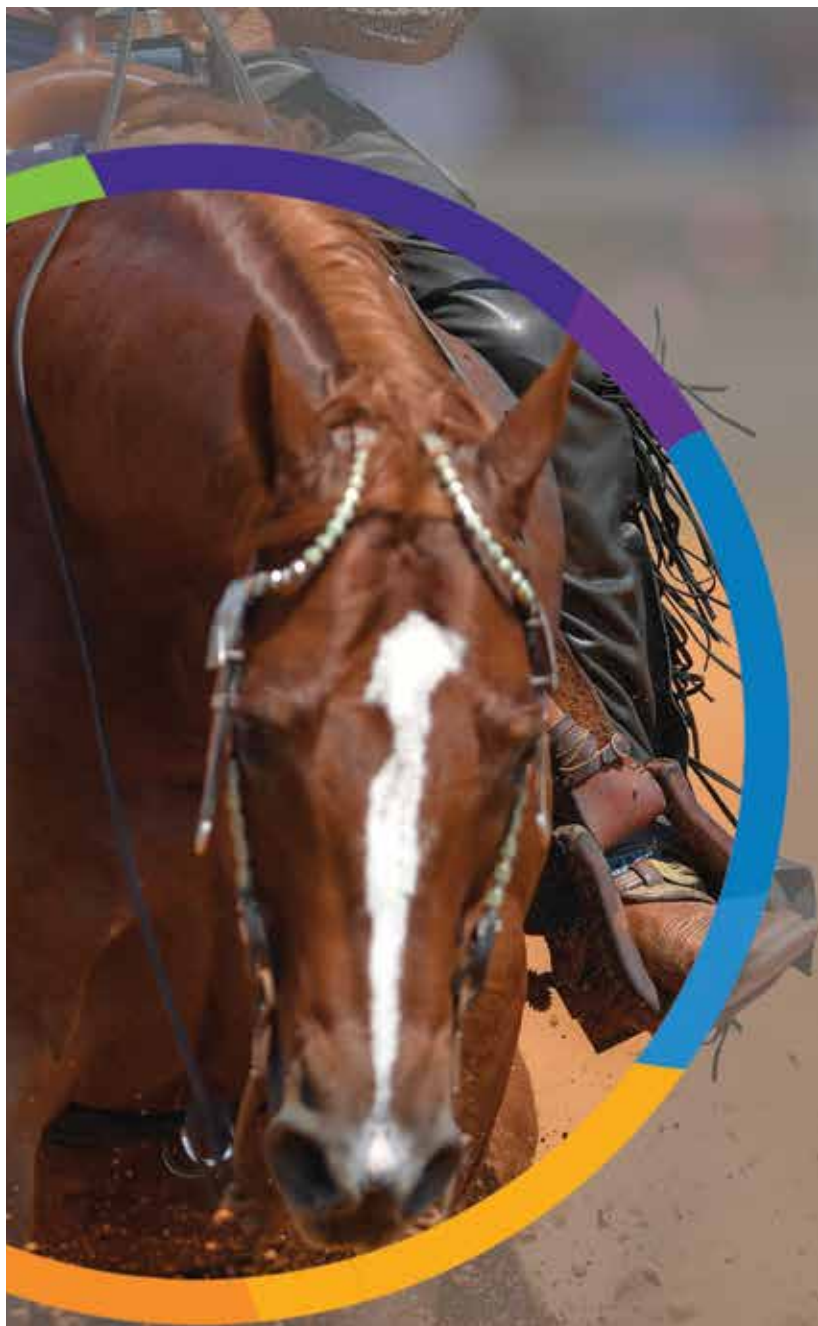
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OUT & ABOUT

APR
2021

Maryland

Rebecca Lazarus



A winter morning at Windsor Manor in Sandy Spring.



Natalie Paley (left) eaned the Child/Adult Hunter Series Championship at the Country Hill Farm Fall/Winter series while barnmate Stephanie Windall (right) earned the Special Hunter Championship. Vendetta earned the series High Point Horse of the Year title. Both ladies are coached by Adrian Ford (center).



Paisley Upton and Newport won the Leadline championship at Country Hill Farm's March schooling show.



Sean Marsh riding out from Grove Point Stables in Earleville.



Leslie Solomon

Sydney Solomon rode Early Review at the Pine Top Horse Trials (Aiken, SC) in the Intermediate/Advanced division in early February.

More
Out & About
photos on
Facebook!



Stephanie Pickett and Jonell Caliskan camped out and trail rode at Fair Hill this past March.



Safe Haven Farm at the March Country Hill Farm show, from left: coach Tina Snyder, Vivian Rubino, Paisley Upton, Alyssa Sands, Brielle Francia and Breanne Hyatt.

Send your photos to
editor@equiery.com
by the 10th for the
next issue!

Reader Contributions - Please send your photos to 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.

OUT & ABOUT

APR
2021

Maryland



Trail riding at Hashawa in Union Mills with Chrissy Hall, Carolann Sharpe, Kim Williams, Tori Donahue, Kendra Grasso and Anastasia Lyons.

**Send your
Out & About photos to
[editor@equiery.com!](mailto:editor@equiery.com)**



Safe Haven Farm's Alyssa Sands and Heart 2 Heart were the Beginner Rider Champions and Winter Series Reserve Champions for the Country Hill Farm winter series.



Tori Donahue riding Luna at Pretty Boy Reservoir.

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by Kimberly K. Egan, MHC Government Relations Committee



The Government Relations Committee continues to work hard in Annapolis on issues of concern to the Maryland horse community. Since our last report, there have been some developments on the therapy horse bills, the Sunday hunting bills, and the animal shelter cost of care bills.

In addition, in light of MHC's recent solar survey, we are including a short discussion of land use rules regarding "solar farming" this month.

Sunday Hunting

A bolus of Sunday hunting bills has been working its way through the General Assembly this session – bills that cover Calvert, Caroline, Prince George's, Somerset, Talbot, and Queen Anne's counties. (A proposed bill in Worcester County has been withdrawn by its sponsors.) The majority of our members oppose Sunday hunting, so we took our customary approach of testifying in opposition to each bill.

As of this writing, only two bills have passed their respective chambers. They are the House version of the Queen Anne's County bill (HB 225) – which would expand the number of Sundays available (currently for just deer hunting from each Sunday during deer firearms season, and three Sundays in October and one in November during deer bow season), to almost all Sundays year-round for all species – and the House version of the Talbot County bill (HB 325) – which would permit deer hunting on every Sunday from the first Sunday in October to the second Sunday in January.

Solar Power

Several members responded to MHC's recent solar power survey with concerns about the prospect of large-scale solar generation facilities on agricultural land, aka, "solar farming." The concern is complex.

What's the Issue?

The "solar farming" issue arose from legislation that the Maryland General Assembly passed in 2019 that requires half of the state's energy to come from renewable sources by 2030, and that 15% of it be from solar power. In 2020, only 5% of Maryland's electricity came from renewable sources, which means Maryland must substantially increase the amount of power it generates from solar energy.

Considerations of space, expense and technology make that difficult to accomplish on rooftops, landfills, and brownfields, so arrays on open land and agricultural land are considered necessary. This necessity that Marylanders reduce fossil fuel consumption is in conflict, however, with the desire of some Marylanders to preserve agricultural land.

How Much Ag Land Is at Risk?

According to an analysis by the Sierra Club, Maryland could produce 100% of its energy needs from solar power alone with 8,400-MW's-worth of solar panels. According to the Sierra Club, Maryland could generate that much solar power using less than 3% of Maryland's total agricultural acreage.

What Projects Are in Review?

There are seven state agencies that review petitions for solar power facilities. One of them is DNR, which is charged with ensuring that Maryland meets its renewable energy goals while preserving our natural resources, whether on private or public land. As of February, 2021, DNR is reviewing six commercial solar installation petitions on rural property:

continued...

Therapy Horses (SB 284/HB 660)

As previously reported, Senator Bryan Simonaire (R – Anne Arundel County) introduced legislation that would add a definition of "therapy horse" to the list of service animals eligible for reimbursement by the State's Veterans Service Animal Program.

The bill had originally restricted eligible stables to those certified by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) Premier Accredited Centers (PAC) or to have Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA) certified professionals on staff.

We opened discussions with the Senator's office and with the therapy horse community to try to expand the definition. It became apparent, however, that finding a definition that satisfies both the equine therapy community at large and the goal of the Maryland Veterans Administration would require more discussion than time would allow during this session.

The Senate has now passed the original version of the bill and it has been referred to the House for further consideration. If the bill becomes law, we intend to reopen discussions ahead of the 2022 session to try to find language that covers as many therapy horse programs as possible while still requiring some objective qualifications for quality control purposes.

Cost of Care for Seized Animals (HB 1080/SB 760)

As reported last month, there is a pair of bills pending that would, generally speaking, require owners under investigation for animal cruelty to pay the costs of caring for the animal after the animal has been seized, or forfeit all rights to the animal. We opposed these bills because of due process and other concerns.

The Government Relations Committee has persuaded the sponsors to exempt livestock – including horses -- from the bill. Even though we have won the battle for now, we expect the sponsors to try to include horses in future versions of the bill. We will wait to see what transpires in the 2022 session.

MHC Government Relations Committee Report, continued...

a 286-acre site on a reclaimed surface coal mine in Allegany County; a 286-acre site on agricultural land in Dorchester County; a 255-acre site on agricultural land in Harford County; a 250-acre site on Farmland of Statewide Importance in Kent County; a 70-acre site on agricultural land in Washington County; and a 25-acre site on agricultural land in Wicomico County.

What Are the Counties Doing?

Most zoning cases are decided at the county level, and several counties have involved themselves in land use issues over solar siting. There are two very recent examples of county activity of particular interest to horse people.

- **Howard County:** On March 15, 2021, the Howard County Council held a hearing on a zoning amendment that would reduce the size of commercial solar installations on agricultural preservation properties from 75 acres to 16 acres, or 34% of the site, whichever is less.
- **Montgomery County:** On February 23, 2021, the Montgomery County Council adopted a zoning amendment to increase the amount of solar energy that can be generated on farms but to prohibit panels from being sited on prime agricultural soil. The amendment also specifies that no more than 1800 acres of land in the Agricultural Reserve can be used for solar arrays.

It bears noting that regardless of where individual counties come out on solar farms on agricultural land, the State Public Services Commis-

sion (PSC) has the final say on where solar installations that generate more than 2,000 kilowatts can be sited. In 2019, the Maryland Court of Appeals ruled in *Washington County v. Perennial Solar, LLC*, that the PSC's authority over energy generation implicitly pre-empts any individual county's effort to control the placement of arrays within its borders. The case grew out of a dispute in Washington County over a 42,000-panel installation that neighbors complained would obstruct their views. The opinion begins, memorably, with a quote from the Beatles – "Here comes the sun, and I say, It's alright."

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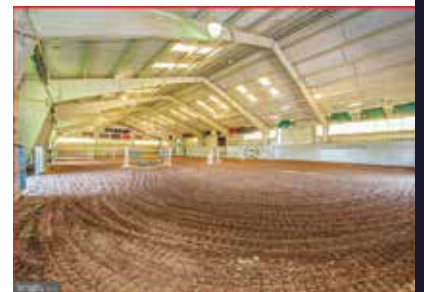
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Cedar Lane Equestrian Center is a custom built 60 acre training and boarding facility in the heart of Western Howard County offered for sale to the equestrian who wants the utmost in every amenity. There are four barns with a total of 26 stalls, a large indoor and outdoor arena, 15 safely fenced pastures with water and electric to each, workshop, shavings shed, manure composting system, and a charming two bedroom farmhouse PLUS a second homesite. Offered at \$2,000,000.



WWW.6216MIDDLEBURG.COM

6216 MIDDLEBURG ROAD, MIDDLEBURG, MD

Beautiful 15 acre turnkey, income-producing horse farm with 16 stall center aisle barn & lighted, 100 x 200 bluestone & sand outdoor arena & wooden round pen. The barn has a large heated tack room, half bath, feed room, wash stall, & grooming stall. The barn features a climate-controlled office perfect for working remotely or convert it to a lounge for your clients and staff. Each pasture has RAMM safe vinyl fencing which requires minimal maintenance & several run-in sheds. The home features three bedrooms & three full baths with an open floor plan & full in-law suite with private entrance & kitchenette. The huge deck is perfect for summer BBQ. \$615,000

I have buyers looking for farms in Montgomery & Howard Counties.



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MKlem@HaganRealty.com



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LOCKE MEADOWS FARM 0 WADESVILLE RD BERRYVILLE, VA

70 Acre historic property and turn key event facility available for the very first time, complete with 3 show rings, full course of custom jumps, show office, judge's stands, sound system, and equipment. This income-producing showgrounds offers enormous potential for future growth and includes a homesite with 3 bedroom perc, two additional dwelling rights and ample space for the custom barn and indoor arena of your dreams. Priced to sell at \$625,000.



DENISE PARSONS

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Dparsons@haganrealty.com



WWW.14405CHRISMANHILL.COM

14405 CHRISMAN HILL DRIVE BOYDS, MD

Don't miss a rare opportunity, this 3 acre farmette in Black Hills Estates is ready for you and your horses. Backing directly to Black Hills Regional Park for miles of trails and even lake access, this lovingly cared for home, landscaped yard and fenced pastures and barn provide easy access to I270 and the Boyds MARC train station. \$639,990



WWW.1011VALE.COM

1011 VALE ROAD, BEL AIR, MD

This charming 3+ Acre Farmette welcomes you and your family. The fully remodeled 3BR, 2BA open concept rancher is move-in ready. Your horses will enjoy the 2-stall barn, paddock & separate pasture, you'll enjoy the lighted ring & watching your horses from the large deck in the fenced back yard. The property also features an attached two car garage, detached oversized one car garage & lrg unfinished basement w/separate entrance. \$449,900



WWW.309DUHAMELCORNER.COM

309 DUHAMEL CORNER ROAD, MARYDEL, MD

A turnkey equestrian property that is this well cared for is a rare find! This lovely 5-acre farmette features so many incredible updates. The house boasts a new roof, siding, boiler, hot water heater, refrigerator, stove, carpet & hardwood in addition to a fully renovated kitchen & full bath. The barn features two large stalls, a tack room, a wash stall, & open space with room for storage or more stalls. Equestrians will love the 80 x 120 outdoor arena with excellent drainage for all weather riding. Other amenities include two small paddocks, three pastures, high-tensile fencing, a workshop, a garage, a chicken coop, two pig pens, a vegetable garden, & plenty of options for riding off-property. \$399,000

SARAH LIPKOWITZ

Office: 866-424-2601 ext. 720
Cell: 301-502-7623
SLipkowitz@haganrealty.com



REAL ESTATE

Diamond in the Rough!

5th generation homestead in Catocin Mts, N. Frederick Co. Never before up for sale. House build w/fieldstone from property dated from mid to late 1800's. 42 acres rolling hills. 60% timber, mature trees ready for harvest. 40% open fields. Plus: 2 car garage, barn, shop, machinery storage. Water source endless w/2 springs, 2 ponds, spring-fed spring house. Perfect setting for horse farm or vineyard. Property borders 500+ acre farm on land preservation. Near I70. Current tenant in separate residence. Call 301-293-2269

Professional, honest REALTOR with LP Calomeris Realty, LLC seeks people looking to buy their dream farm or SELL FAST for top dollar! Licensed in Maryland & Virginia, Tara Shegogue is ready to help make dreams come true! Call (240) 745-5299 or (301) 698-1958.

Stalls For Lease

S. Carroll Co. conv to Howard & Balt. Cos. Amenities incl. 4-11 stalls, lighted indoor w/ mirrors, 100' x 200' outdoor, direct access to 3,000 acs of trails. \$200/stall, discounts pos. www.sunnyknollfarm.net, 410-549-2023, sunnyknol@aol.com

For Rent - Damascus

Luxury 1BR, 1.5BA. HVAC, internet, kitchen, living room, den, garage, deck. Includes 2 stalls and pasture w/run-in shed. \$2250/mo. 301-768-8454

For Rent - Freeland, MD

3BR, 1BA farmhouse for rent on a beautiful horse farm that backs up to Pretty Boy Reservoir in Freeland, MD. \$1600/mo plus utilities, but will lower to \$1,200 for ground maintenance (ie. cutting grass, weed wacking, fence mending, etc.) 410-218-4131



Convenient Location! 50+ac. prop (incl. 1+ac. lot that can be sold) on park-like setting. 4 BR home, 100' x 50' outbuilding w/elec. Conv. to I-70, Rtes 27 & 80. Easy commute to Baltimore, Frederick, Rockville, or Westminster. \$1,200,000. Lauren McBain, Re/Max Realty Centre 301-252-3524, lauren@mcbainhomes.com



FARMS & LAND

■ MONTGOMERY COUNTY



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.

■ FREDERICK COUNTY

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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To place your ad for the next issue (print & online) or online only, contact Emily Nessel
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REALTY, LLC.

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- Solar Energy Seminar
- MHC Meeting Highlights
- Farm Stewardship Tips
- and more to come!



<https://qrs.ly/4vce1vk>

LF Koerber

Exclusive Listing by Equestrian Estates and Farms




11437 Bethesda Church Road, Damascus, MD - Montgomery Co.

This is a completely turn key boarding facility. Clients and workers all want to stay. 50 stalls on 58.97 lush acres. The lower barn is a converted dairy barn with 32 stalls, each with its own window! Through the breezeway to an adjoining building is the tack room w/lockers and a bathroom. Above the barn is a massive hay loft that can hold approx. 3500 square bales! Also on this level is a 4 BR apt. that is currently occupied by the farm employees. (They would like to stay and keep working at the farm.) There is a 1 BR rental in this barn as well. The upper barn is a metal center aisle barn w/18 stalls and a heated tack room. There is a wash stall in each of the barns. There is an 80x160 indoor & 2 outdoor rings! (120 x 255 & 60 x 80). There are trails to ride out on from the farm too! There are 2 homes on the property- One home is a traditional 3 BR farmhouse style w/large porch, eat-in kitchen and wood floors. The second home, a brick Cape Cod style home has 3 BRs. Pick one of the homes for yourself and rent the other! There also is a 2BR house trailer used as a rental. All the rentals could be great additional income! The farm is conveniently located with access to 270 and 70. \$2,500,000

0321



equestrian
estates
and farms

Lauren McBain •• Re/Max Realty Centre  Direct 301/252-3524 •• Office 301/591-3920  www.homesbylaurenonline.com

13001 Penn Shop Rd., Mt. Airy, MD - Frederick Co.

A hidden gem! The home & land cannot be seen from the road so please make an appointment to visit this very special property.

Enjoy outdoor activities on your very own park-like setting of almost 50 acres! 5BR light-filled Colonial w/ 2-story foyer. Gourmet, eat-in kitchen. Large family room w/ the most amazing view of open rolling fields, forest, a fenced backyard area & your own stocked pond & creek! The walk-out basement is partially finished w/a BR, full BA & bonus room. The unfinished area is perfect to use as a gym, craft area, or can easily be finished off. Property has a 100' X 50' outbuilding with concrete floors and power. Perfect for storing all your ATVs, boats, cars, tractors etc or can be retrofitted for horses and livestock. There is an additional lot (Lot 1109325638) which is a buildable 1.19 acre parcel that perched for a 3 bedroom home, has been recorded with the county and the well was installed. This lot is available to be purchased as well. The driveway is 50' wide to allow for two driveways. \$1,200,000



DAVIDSONVILLE



ACREAGE: 32+
BEDROOMS: 4
BATHROOMS: 4.5



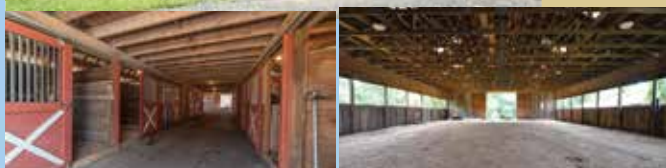
Training Farm? School? Multi-purpose buildings? Farm-to table? First time ever offered for public sale in Davidsonville is an incomparable equestrian training farm with many other potential uses sited on 32.89 acres which includes 2 separately recorded and deeded building lots of 6 & 8 acres. The farm buildings were beautifully designed and crafted in 2010. The property includes a barn like no other with 20 stalls, 4 permanent grooming racks, 2 hot/cold wash racks, 1 vet/farrier stall, gathering or meeting room with kitchenette, climate controlled office with full bath, climate controlled tack room with custom Cherry wood tack lockers and tack cleaning sink, separate half bath, laundry room, large feed-room, fireproof hay storage area with over-sized doors, covered patio, two large tack trunk storage areas and double height ceilings. The indoor riding arena is a rigid built 120 X 240 building with 25 windows, 5 glass over-sized mechanical doors, observation area, full kick boards and Euro-felt style footing. The property also offers an Olympic sized outdoor riding ring too along with several board fenced paddocks. Separate outbuildings for jump storage and tractor storage. The detached house is circa 1981 and offers two distinct living areas with a total of 4 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Shown by appointment only. **VIDEO WALKTHROUGH** <https://iplayerhd.com/player/video/f40dd2ed-dc90-4ee9-a3d7-b9c300d6ebf2/share>

BRANDYWINE

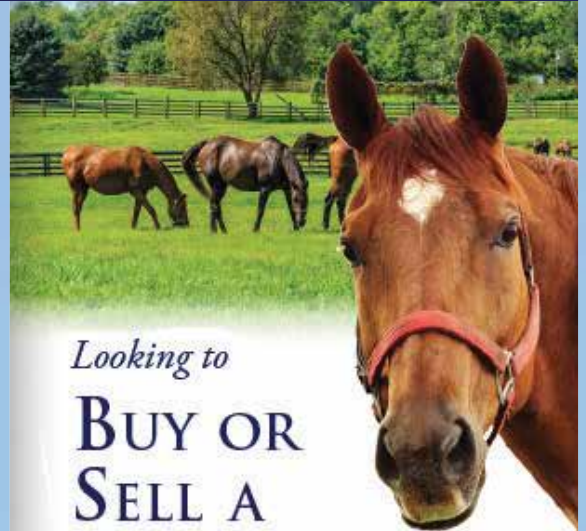


\$749,980

ACREAGE: 6+
BEDROOMS: 6
BATHROOMS: 4



Equestrian compound w/3 separate living spaces all set on a quiet street not far from the new shops & entertainment in Brandywine. Primary home has full solar, custom construction & 3BR. There is a 2BR apartment. The center aisle barn w/indoor & 8 stalls has a 3rd living area w/full bath.



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eXp - Diamond

The Equiery's Annual Photo Contest!

Grand Champion Photo will appear on the August *Equiery* cover!

2021 CATEGORIES:

- **Maryland Foals** (born in Maryland, sired by a Maryland stallion or owned by a Maryland resident)
- **Equestrian Sports** (must be taken at a Maryland venue and/or be of a Maryland-resident competitor)
- **Horse Farm Life** (general Maryland horse farm scenes and subjects)
- **Portraits** (of Maryland horses and/or Maryland residents)
- **Black & White** (any of the above categories as black & white photos)



Deadline: July 10, 2021

CONTEST RULES

<http://equiery.com/photo-contest/>

OUT & ABOUT

APR
2021

on Social Media: Late February Views



The photos on this page were posted to *The Equiery's* Facebook page on March 1. These photos were posted by the following *Equiery* Facebook followers (top row to bottom row/left to right): Riley Shank, Rachael Elizabeth, Sarah DeLorme Bucior, Larisa Rose, Madelaine Waltien Shedlick, Patrick McKinney, Kristen Marie, Brittani Godfrey, Debbie Phelps Worrell, Jamie Lynn Dice, Jill Cacciatore Owens, Jessica M. Millard, Dana Grafft, Michelle Welman and Kristen Marie



NEWS from MHC'S INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

NEWS FROM INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Member **Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill** welcomes Connie Sawyer and Dan Laufer to their growing team of professionals. Connie is a veteran of the equestrian industry with vast experience as the manager of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ North American League (NAL). She will be leading all aspects of the broadcast production and streaming for the Maryland 5 Star. Dan's career spans over 20 years in the production of large-scale indoor and outdoor events, including his time as the Director of Operations for the Citi Open tennis tournament. Dan will be responsible for directing all event overlay and operational logistics for the Maryland 5 Star in close cooperation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the new Fair Hill Special Event Zone.



Kudos to member **Denise Parsons**, who was recognized by the National Association of Realtors for her volunteer work with her 501c3 charity Gaited Advocate Intervention Team, Inc. (GAIT), which has helped to rehabilitate or retrain over 200 horses since it was founded in 2016.

Most folks in the equestrian community know **JoAnn Dawson** as the owner and operator of Fairwinds Farm in Cecil County, but what they may not know is that she is also a SAG actor, movie & tv animal wrangler, book author and now movie script writer. Her script *Cream of the Crop* is now in the early stages of fundraising and production. "The movie is about a subject that is dear to my heart: the preservation of family farmland for future generations. The relationship that develops between the young couple personifies the struggle that faces so many farms today – the desire of a family to keep the farm they love against all odds." The main character of the screenplay is Jodi Stafford, a high school Ag Science teacher. JoAnn's SAG name is also Jodi, and she teaches Equine Science and Acting at Cecil College. Coincidence???

Member and realtor **Laura Lee Jones** has pledged to donate \$1,000 to the Maryland Horse Council Foundation/Maryland Equine Transition Service from each sales transaction if her client mentions "METS."

CLARIFICATION



In this column in the March issue, we published "Taxes in Time of Covid" by member and dressage rider Nikki Wingire, but we inadvertently spelled her name incorrectly and neglected to tell you anything about her business, Cappetta LLC.

Cappetta is pretty cool, as it specializes in working with businesses in the equine and agricultural industries. With 15+ years of accounting and bookkeeping experience, services include general bookkeeping (for example, monthly reconciliations, general ledger maintenance, accounts payable and receivable), controller services (for example, regular client reviews of financial reports)

and assisting clients' CPAs with year-end planning and tax preparation. Cappetta is Quickbooks certified.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: CLARITY RIDING

Originally from a tiny town in Vermont, "wedged way up north between Lake Champlain and Canada with more cows than people - with some Morgan horses mixed in," Elizabeth Farina landed in Maryland mostly for the weather ("the air hurts your face in Vermont from October through March), but stayed because of our "amazing equestrian community." Elizabeth sought out a career in the horse industry, earning a BS in Equine Science from the University of New Hampshire, studying at the University of Limerick in Ireland, and completing a two-year apprenticeship in farriery back in the U.S, teaching and training throughout those years.



She continued to do both after arriving in MD in 2008, and in 2016 launched her own business, Clarity Riding in Davidsonville. With rapid growth taking her through several properties, Clarity has evolved into an active riding school for all ages and training program focusing on dressage, endurance, gaited horses, and jumpers. Clarity also partners with GAIT to assist in training and adopting rescue horses.

Elizabeth took a creative approach to learning how to be a small business owner. She enrolled in SCORE, a program to foster small business owners through mentorship and education. Little did she know how much that mentorship would pay off until her business faced the crisis of the pandemic. In Elizabeth's own words:

COVID was scary. As a riding school, our overhead is about 30% more than what we can cover with boarding/training horses alone. If the school horses aren't working, we are underwater. We had a rainy day fund and our barn family was amazing with many people continuing to pay lease and lesson fees throughout the stay at home orders. I am incredibly grateful that I had the knowledge and ability to have proper business licenses and procedures set up so that we could utilize COVID grant and loan programs. I spent a lot of stressful hours filling out convoluted applications but it paid off when we were able to receive a PPP loan, EIDL, and Maryland grants.

During Phase One reopening, we adapted our riding lesson and summer camp program to COVID guidelines and added in a farm-based education program for the fall. We added more time between students and hired more instructors to space out riders. We did have to raise lesson and board rates to cover some added expenses, but on the whole I feel so grateful and lucky that our outdoor and naturally distanced set-up has allowed the riding school and training program to get almost back to normal and provide an outlet for kids and adults to socialize safely.

Looking ahead to 2021 we are optimistically anticipating a full schedule for our 3 competition teams, a safe summer camp season, regular private and semi-private riding lessons, and some extra educational programs.

This feature is a benefit for MHC Industry Professional Members. To learn more or submit news & updates, contact Business Network Co-Chairs Jane Seigler & Crystal Brumme Pickett at IndustryNews@mdhorsecouncil.org

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ABOUT MHC'S INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP



WELCOME NEW MEMBER: PROMISE LANDING FARM

Promise Landing Farm is new to Maryland's community of therapeutic riding programs, opening its doors literally the week before the pandemic shut down the state.

Fueled by the Taishoff Family Foundation, PLF's therapeutic riding program teaches horsemanship and riding skills that promote independence, intellectual engagement, and physical strength to individuals with disabilities. Every lesson is taught with an emphasis on understanding and building cognitive skills.

What is the Taishoff Family Foundation, and why therapeutic riding?



In 2001, Jacqueline "Jackie" Lee Taishoff was born with Down syndrome; in 2001, hospitals still asked parents of newborns with Down syndrome if they wanted to take their child home. Not only did they take their daughter home, Jackie's parents made her life as full as possible. Jackie started riding when she was just 10 years old, and it changed her life. With that, the Taishoff Family Foundation was established, and since then, the imaginative philanthropic work of the Foundation in the disability community has become well known.

The latest project is Promise Landing Farm. In 2018, 115 acres in Upper Marlboro were acquired to establish a new community of people who respect all abilities in an environment that maximizes the power of horse and human interaction. Therapeutic riding will be the priority but non-riding programs will help to make Promise Landing Farm unique. From a first-time rider to a seasoned equestrian to someone who prefers to connect with their horse from the ground ... all are welcome and respected for what they bring to this inclusive community.

"We wanted people to have interaction with horses, with other riders, and with people who don't even ride," explained Jackie's father, retired Navy Captain Rob Taishoff. "I started to think ... if we could overlay what (the Taishoff Family Foundation) is doing in education, including teaching socializing skills, we could do something important in therapeutic riding," he said. "We have watched InclusiveU (at Syracuse University) and Annapolis Christian School include all students, to the benefit of everyone. And we've seen how good the socialization is for the typical kids as well as for the kids with disabilities."

PLF welcomes individuals coping with amputation, ADHD, Autism, blindness, Cerebral Palsy, deafness/hearing impairments, Down syndrome, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, orthopedic impairments, Spina Bifida, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), visual impairments, and more.

When PLF opened its doors, COVID-19 promptly shut them. "What a beginning!" exclaims Executive Director Rachel Neff. "The good news about being a start-up in a pandemic was that we were very flexible. There was no established routine to disrupt. We returned with un-mounted programs in June and resumed adaptive riding lessons in July 2020. As the pandemic begins to slow and we're able to safely gather, we are looking forward to launching small group programs and hosting events at the farm later in 2021."

RENEWED MEMBERS

Welcome back Dr. James Casey D.V.M., Equine Veterinary Services, and Corinne Pouliquen, Park Overlook Farm LLC.

THIS EQUIERY COLUMN IS FOR YOU!

This monthly column in *The Equiry*, (which is owned and published by the Maryland Horse Council) is designed to meet the demands of MHC's Industry Professional Members: a place where you can publicize your professional news and updates. Have you taken on a new partner? Hired a new manager or trainer? Brought a new vet into your practice? Promoted an employee? Moved your location? Received a commendation or award? Changed brokerages or practices? Hired a new director of development? If so, we want to know! Please send your news to IndustryNews@mdhorsecouncil.org.

WHAT IS AN INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL?

Industry Professional Memberships are open to owners and managers of equine or equine-related businesses, farms and shows/events, and to independent contractors and service providers. Equine businesses include (but are not limited to) farms and stables offering any equine-related service (such as boarding, training, lessons, trail rides, pony parties, breeding, mare care, foaling, carriage horses, and equine entertainment).

Equine-related businesses include (but are not limited to) tack, feed and other retail stores; trailer manufacturers, sales & service; shipping; feed mills; manufacturers of saddles, supplements, tack, and shoes; hay, straw, shavings, feed, and other products; insurance, financial, legal, accounting, and marketing services; auction houses and sales sites; competition venues and race tracks; veterinary practices and hospitals.

Independent contractors include (but are not limited to) veterinarians, farriers, equine therapists, saddle fitters, trainers, instructors, stall muckers, braiders, and equine dentists.

Industry Professional Membership Benefits include:

- direct input into policy and advocacy by the Maryland Horse Council on State of Maryland legislative and regulatory affairs, to protect and grow the diverse Maryland horse industry
- exclusive invitations to Business Networking events and seminars (not open to any other membership category)
- business logo and link on MHC member directory page
- discounts on select nationally known products and services, such as John Deere, Sherwin Williams, Suncoast, Nationwide, Redbrand, US Equestrian, New Holland, Toro, eXmark, tenda – and more
- exclusive discounts for advertising and marketing via *The Equiry's* multi-media products. Contact Tracy McKenna to find out more! tracy@equiry.com or 410-802-4219

Annual Membership Dues: \$100
Lifetime Membership: \$1,000



THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS

SPOTLIGHT ON MARYLAND-BREDS



Coach Matthew, now named Victor, is a Thoroughbred by Friesan Fire and out of Taint Yieldin'. He is currently owned by Brooks VonNieda and was bred by Jay Reese, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zuerick, and Mr. and Mrs. George Rayborn.



Foster is a 2020 Rhineland colt by Florianus 2 and out of Rohannah (by Rosenthal). His breeder and owner is Rachel Rosenfeld of Doc's Haven Farm LLC in Poolesville.



Shira Rosenthal leases the Oldenburg Go Grande. Joan Watt bred and owns the gelding who is by Grande Sovereign and out of Way Easy.

B. Herbin



Loafers Lodge Jubilee was bred by John and Margaret Almond. The Welsh Pony is by Fox Cry Winnie the Pooh and out of Brookside Merit.

Shannon Brinkman



The former racehorse Malibu Rock now has a successful career as an upper level event horse with owner Monica Fiss, pictured here competing at Fair Hill International. Malibu Rock was bred by Rita Riedlbauer and is by No Armistice, out of Our Bellarosa.



The Thoroughbred racehorse Love You Much is by Not for Love and out of Runaway Pearl, a former University of Maryland broodmare. He was bred by the late Earl Barnhart and is currently owned by Warwick Stables. The now seven-year-old turf runner spends his winters at his owners' farm before heading back to the track each spring.



The 12-year-old Hanoverian Serafina CC is by Sinatra Song and is out of Nedergaards Prima Donna. She is owned and bred by Camilla Cornwell. The pair compete in dressage and are pictured here at Waredaca last summer.

Ninia Nissen



Super pony Wil'Ya Love Me competed through the Advanced level in eventing with owner Courtney Sendak. The Connemara, bred by Holly Bricken, is by Grange Finn Sparrow and out of Lady Doreen.

Hoof Pix

Don't forget to send your Maryland-bred photos to editor@equiery.com. We will print a selection of photos each month in 2021!

SPOTLIGHT ON MARYLAND-BREDS



The American Quarter Horse Eclectic Snow (Electric Code x Wimpys Classy Sugar) was bred and is owned by Bar M Performance Horses.



The 2014 Thoroughbred mare Rosie McGuire is by Maryland stallion Friesan Fire and out of Snunner. She is currently owned by Debby Lynn and was bred by James Bryant and Linda Davis.



Eladdinns Symphony, a half Arabian mare, is by PL Eladdinns Jazz and out of GNF Crescendo*/*/*. Bred by Gabrielle Cottone of Cottone Sport Horses, she is owned by Jessica Edwards.



Belhany P Photography

Marne Martin-Tucker's homebred Galaxy Coeur is a three-year-old German Oldenburg by Grand Galaxy Win and out of El Royal Coeur.



She's the One Flower is an AQHA Amateur Champion Quarter Horse bred by Mike Palmisano and owned by Eileen Simpson. Sired by Poco Pine Oil and out of Miss Chip Flower, "Annie" was an AQHA National Top 10 Performance Halter Mares winner in 2010 and AQHA Region 5 Trail Champion in 2016. She is now retired at Bonafide Stables in Glenwood.

**Send your
Out & About
photos to
editor@equiery.com**



Lehigh Riding Club

Westminster, MD

Hunter & Jumper Schooling Shows

May 2 • June 13 • July 18
August 8 • September 12

Rain Date: October 10

Hunter classes \$12 ~ Jumper classes \$15

Jumpers not to start before noon
Classes for all levels of horse & rider!

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Potomac Valley Dressage Association

Promoting education in the art & sport of dressage since 1964

COVID-19 may affect this schedule
please check our omnibus page for updates.

Upcoming Schooling Shows:

4/18 • Southwind Farm • Damascus, MD
5/1 • Preston Farm • Preston, MD
5/1 • Schooley Mill I • Highland, MD
5/2 • Schooley Mill I (Jr/YR) • Highland, MD

- Schooling Show Online Entry now available at
EquestrianEntries.com and Strider.com -

Upcoming Licensed Shows:

5/15-16 • Spring Show Morven Park • Leesburg, VA
6/19-20 • Ride for Life • Upper Marlboro, MD

Find a chapter near you! View our full calendar online.
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ADOPTION OPTION

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Belisima: 2003 15.2 hand Andalusian Mare. Quiet and easygoing.

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Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue

Houston: 2006 17 hand Percheron Gelding. Not irritable, but impeccable manners and loves attention.

adoptions@gentlegiantsdrafthorsescue.org;
www.gentlegiantsdrafthorsescue.org



GAIT, INC.

Portia: 15yo, 15h Mountain Horse type mare. She is trail experienced and great for a novice rider or above. She is an easy keeper that needs her diet managed. Adoption fee \$1300 in Frederick, MD.

www.gaitrrr.org



MidAtlantic Horse Rescue

Classic Kid: Ch.g., 16+h, '16. Fee: \$1600. Beautiful mover w/uphill build, hacks out successfully. No limitations. Barefoot. Cribber but is stopped w/strap. Big puppy dog, always wants to know who is doing what!

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



Days End Farm Horse Rescue

Uri: 1995, 15.3hh, Thoroughbred. Light riding. Wonderful gaits, w/t/c. Uri is a charming, handsome older fellow that is in search for his retirement home. Registered name: Zagor's Deco Due.

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



Maryland Equine Transition Service

Champion: STB geld, '97, 15h. Companion only. UTD shots & dental. Needs reg farrier care. Maintenance diet & muzzle, but is easy keeper. Good w/mares & geldings. Can be herd-bound. Good for adv beg handler.

410-970-6474; horses@mdequinetransition.org;
www.mdequinetransition.org



Lifeline Horse Rescue & Rehab., Inc.

Polo: handsome 15h TB / TB Cross gelding. Estimated to be in his teens. Has polo & jump experience, full of personality & pep. Ties, stands for vet & farrier, hops in trailer like a pro.

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



The Foxie G Foundation

Yep: 16H, 4yo bay TB gelding. Despite being sway backed, unlimited for any discipline. Only started one time & did not shine on track but w/easy going personality, will be wonderful riding horse. Adoption fee \$500.

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



Middle Ridge Farm & Rescue

Cupcake: Fancy Welsh Pony mare. About 8-9yo, 12h. Ready to begin training U/S. Not suitable for children, wid excel w/exp trainer or rider working w/trainer. Prev foundered, req limited/monitored grazing. Fee \$650

301-305-6440; info@middleridgefarm.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!

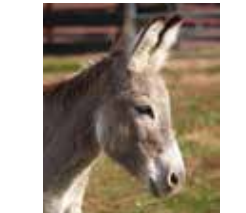
301-992-0284; mdhorserescue@gmail.com;
www.mdhorserescue.net



Standardbred Retirement Foundation

Kendra Oaks: 15.1h, 14yo STB Mare. Enjoys short trail trips & long rides. Rides out alone, w/group, lead, follow, mid-pack, loves water, obstacles w/ease. Solid W/T; learning to collect canter. Stands well, trailers.

609-738-3255; SRFAdoption@gmail.com;
www.AdoptaHorse.org



Little Longears Miniature Donkey Rescue

Donkeys, donkeys everywhere! Miniatures, Standards & even Mammoths! Donkeys are sweet, social & super smart! Come see for yourself. We have lots of donkeys ready for adoption.

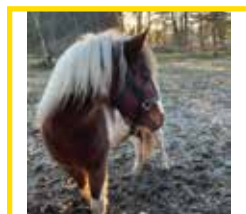
301-908-7351; info@littlelongears.org;
www.littlelongears.org



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

From slaughter bound to homeward bound. Congratulations to Dauphne, initially rescued by Safe Haven Equine Warriors, now adopted & at her new home. Wishing Dauphne & Sarah a wonderful future together!

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

LIFE & TIMES

of Marylanders

MARYLAND WILL MISS...

Jeff Becker

Submitted by Wendy Schuler

Jeffrey Eric Becker, Maryland horse trainer, rider and equestrian coach, died on January 19 in Washington, DC. He was 61. Jeff had been involved in the Maryland horse industry all his life, and he truly loved horses. He trained numerous horses and students to compete successfully in local and rated competitions. He had also competed extensively himself.

Jeff owned Lakeside Stables in Poolesville for many years, at which he trained and boarded horses and trained adult and young adult riders. He was coach of the Georgetown University Club Equestrian Team from 2008 -2018 and took the team to the IHSA national



Jeffrey Eric Becker

championship. He coached the American University Equestrian Team for several years as well.

Students and team members praised his extensive knowledge and passion for horses, as well as his talent for teaching. One of his greatest accomplishments was his success in bringing out the best in horse and rider combinations.

Students also admired his understanding of the individual horses in his care and how he worked with each to produce a happy and reliable partner.

He is survived by his wife, Kasey; his mother, Elaine Becker; his sister, Wendy Schuler; and his nephew, Scott.

Gilbert Clifford Breeding of Finksburg died on February 25 at the age of 85. Gilbert was a US Army veteran and a forest ranger with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. He was an avid rodeo rider and also often competed in local jousting tournaments. In 1973, he was awarded the Conservation Educator of the Year award through the Maryland Wildlife Federation and in 2020, he was inducted into the Carroll County Department of Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame with his wife Janet Breeding. The couple had been married for 59 years.

COMINGS & GOINGS

Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding Center recently elected **Sarah Ortiz-Brown** and **Mary "Posie" Thompson** to its Board of Directors.

Greener Pastures

Roll Call

CAVALIER

Arabian Gelding
5/10/1985 - 2/22/2021
Michele McGuinness

OLNEY DELIGHTFUL

EXPECTATION

Shetland Pony
1991 - 2021
Regina Welsh

HERCULES

Retired Baltimore Police Horse
Draft Gelding
2000? - 2/2021
Sagamore Farm

OLNEY WHOOPEE

Shetland Pony
1983 - 3/3/2021
Olney Farm

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- Climate Controlled Tack Rooms w/Private Lockers
- Hot Water Wash Stalls
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- Outside Trainers Welcome
- Drama Strictly Prohibited
- Convenient Location

RICK SHAFFER TRAIL HORSE CLINIC & TEST PROGRAM
April 24 - 25
Space limited, Individual Attention
See website for info & to register

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Mount Airy, MD 21771

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OUT & ABOUT

APR
2021

on Social Media: Mid-March Activities



The photos on this page were posted to *The Equiry's* Facebook page on March 15. These photos were posted by the following *Equiry* Facebook followers (top row to bottom row/left to right): Chelsea Grabhman, Courtney Swars, Gaudet Equis, Jennifer Sulin-Stair, Amber Austin, Erin Reynolds, Jessica Flores, Lauren Kimmel, Hannah Wyper, Anita Kennedy, Catie Jackson, April Dawn Tingle, Missy Green, Shelley Dillon Mikeska and Shari Lofgren Young.

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Leslie Deering

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Nancy Dawn Ashway

Judging: USEF "R" Hunter, Breeding, & Eq; "r" Jumper & MHSA "R" Hunter & Hunt Seat Equitation, Hunter Breeding, Jumper. Clinics, Boarding, Training, Sales, Lessons

410-253-7252; horseshowjudge@countrycomfortfarm.com; www.countrycomfortfarm.com



JoAnn Robertson

Licensed "R" USEF/MHSA Judge: Hunters - Ponies - Equitation - Hunter Breeding • Available for Clinics. 40+ Years Experience. Judging, Teaching, Boarding, Training. Also Adult-focused Trailer-in Lessons at Aspiring Heights Farm, Westminster, MD.

410-848-1431 (no texts), aspiringheightsfarm@gmail.com; www.aspiringheightsfarm.com



Yvonne Atwood

British Horse Society Intermediate Instructor & USDF Bronze & Silver medalist. Traveling to you teaching classical drsg, rider biomechanics & correct grndwrk. Let me help you start/retrain/improve your horse while also teaching you "how & why" & "feel & body awareness". All levels.

240-529-8707; yaatwood@hotmail.com; www.mindfuldressage.com



Jane Seigler

USDF Silver Medalist. Dressage instruction. Beginner to 4th Level, focused on helping horse and rider find confidence in their balance, discover better relaxation, and maximize athletic performance. Extensive training with Walter Zettl, Linda Zang and Ulf Wiltfang.

301-774-3756; seigler.jane@gmail.com



Bob Ciri

John & Josh Lyons Certified Trainer - Helping horses & riders improve communication, solve behavior problems & gain riding confidence. Lessons focus on developing balance, increasing understanding of aids, & improving movement. Also exp w/rehab for horses coming back to work.

301-928-2828; help@horsesupport.com; www.horsesupport.com



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www.enticementstables.com

0421

Plan Your Season at Full Moon Farm!

April 25: FMF Starter HT - Details at <https://fullmoonfarm.com/competitions/horse-trials/>

May 23: FMF Farm Family Insurance Jackalope Enterprises Horse Show #1

June 6: FMF Farm Family Insurance Jackalope Enterprises Horse Show #2

June 21-25: FMF 1/4 star & Clinics

Our starter event & unrecognized 3-Day Event offer something for everyone. Our educ courses are designed so that you and your horse have a confidence-boosting experience.

July 18: FMF Aloha Horse Trials

July 25: FMF Farm Family Insurance Jackalope Enterprises Show #3

August 9: FMF Show Team Tryouts

August 22: FMF Farm Family Insurance Jackalope Enterprises Show #4

September 12: FMF Farm Family Insurance Jackalope Enterprises Show #5

October 16: FMF Halloween Trunk or Treat event

Summer Camp at Full Moon: June 28 - July 2 • July 26 - 30 • Aug 23 - 27

• See www.fullmoonfarm.com for more information •

Karen & Stephen Fulton • 4326 Louisville Road, Finksburg, MD 21048
410-795-8371 • www.fullmoonfarm.com • fullmoonfarmkaren@gmail.com

Ad Index

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Emge Equine Services

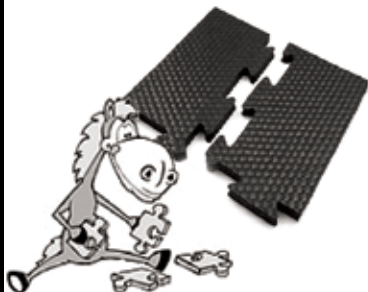
www.earthhorse.com

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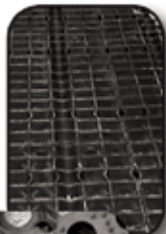
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