

NEWS & VIEWS

You Can Use

MCTA Bounces Back after COVID

After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Maryland Combined Training Association (MCTA) Horse Trials returns to Shawan Downs this spring. Eventers might notice however that the event, which traditionally has been run on the first weekend in May, is now on the last weekend of May having swapped weekends with the spring Waredaca Horse Trials with US Eventing Association approval.

Ami Howard and daughter Patti Fenwick, who have been the event's organizers since 2010, have retired with Chris Donovan picking up the reins. Donovan has a long history with MCTA as her mother, Ann McKay, was instrumental in organizing the first MCTA event, held 49 years ago at Jackson Hole Farm in Upperco. Donovan is working closely with Betsy Hochstein and Toni Marie Woods to put on this year's event.

In addition to the USEA-sanctioned event, MCTA is adding a starter/unrecognized event at Shawan the following Saturday.

Neil Agate Joins RRP Board

The Retired Racehorse Project (RRP) announced the election of three new members to its Board of Directors: Neil Agate (MD), Buck Davidson (PA) and Jodie Vella-Gregory (PA). Each will serve a three-year term and be eli-

gible to serve for up to two consecutive terms. These new board members replace Christy Clagett, Rosie Napravnik and Steuart Pittman, whose terms have expired.

Agate is the current Maryland Horse Council President and founder of Four Gates, LLC, a business and technology services firm. During his term as MHC President, Agate guided the organization through the purchase of The Equiry and the formation of the Maryland Equine Transition Service. Agate is an avid polo player and was the 2015 RRP Makeover Top Amateur trainer in the polo division.

Davidson is an international event rider who consistently is ranked in the Top 10 Eventing Riders globally. He is the co-presenter at the RRP's annual charity golf event in Ocala, FL, and has served as a clinician in a RRP Master Class.

Vella-Gregory currently works in the Office of Innovation for 1/ST Racing (formerly The Stronach Group). She previously worked for Breeders' Cup Limited and still contracts with them to help run the Breeders' Cup race day. Vella-Gregory has been instrumental in helping to expand RRP's reach to the West Coast.

USEF Allows Limited Spectators

On April 14, US Equestrian announced that beginning May 3, 2021, USEF-licensed competitions can welcome a limited number of spectators on competition grounds under the following capacity restrictions:

- Outdoor Venues: A maximum of 40% of the ticketed spectator capacity for competitions that operate with a ticketed gate, OR a maximum of 400 spectators for competitions that do not ticket spectators, whichever is greater.
- Indoor Venues: A maximum of 30% of the ticketed spectator capacity for competitions that operate with a ticketed gate, OR a maximum of 300

spectators for competitions that do not ticket spectators, whichever is greater.

•For venues that consist of both outdoor and indoor components, the above capacity restrictions apply accordingly.

It is important to note that spectators must comply with all applicable requirements of the USEF COVID-19 Action Plan, including but not limited to wearing face masks/face coverings, social distancing, and frequent hand washing. The capacity numbers included above are the maximum permitted at a USEF competition each day. Because of the requirement to socially distance, some venues or situations might not allow organizers to accommodate the maximum allowable number of spectators.

Additionally, USEF has expanded the definition of sponsors to include individual persons or business entities that have an agreement in place with the competition to provide goods, services, or financial support integral to the sustainability of a competition. Sponsors, participants, competition staff, support personnel, volunteers, and service providers are not included in the spectator capacity numbers.

It is critical that competition organizers and participants continue to follow all governmental and health authority guidance and restrictions, which if more restrictive, supersede USEF's requirements.

Billy Boniface Enters County Executive Race

Billy Boniface, chief advisor to Harford County Executive Barry Glassman (R), became the first candidate to formally enter the race to replace Glassman in 2022. Boniface's family owns Bonita Farm in Darlington, which was the home and breeder of the most recent Maryland-bred Preakness winner Deputed Testamony (1983).

Boniface is a former Harford County Council President, having won his first term in 2006 and run unopposed for re-election in 2010. He spent the next five and a half years as chief administrative officer for Glassman, overseeing the budget and day-to-day operations of the county government.

Boniface is also a former President of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association and served on the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and Maryland Young Farmers Advisory Board. He currently serves on the Maryland Horse Foundation Board of Directors.

continued...

Behind the Scenes: Equiry Cover Shoot



On a snowy day this winter, photographer Bethany Grace Perkowski orchestrated a photo shoot for Chair & Chisel, which included this month's cover photo. Model Kayla Smith was paired up with the Warlander (Friesian & Andalusian cross) Centauro, owned by Francisco Morales (brown jacket) and trained by Juan Quincin (black jacket), with both horse and rider decked out in leatherwork by Chair & Chisel.