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OCTOBER 2021

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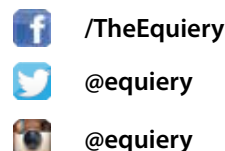
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# EQUIERY

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The Maryland Horse Council, Inc. (MHC) is a 501(c)(6) trade association that represents all segments of the Maryland horse industry, at the state and local level. MHC has been representing the Maryland horse industry for over 35 years.

MHC's core mission is to lobby state and local government for sensible and economically sound positions, and to provide educational and business networking resources for the Maryland horse community. As part of its work, MHC participates in the Maryland Farm Bureau and the American Horse Council's Coalition of State Horse Councils.

*The Equiery* is MHC's trade publication. MHC uses *The Equiery* to provide the Maryland horse community with horse industry news, educational articles, photos, and profiles on horse businesses and horse people, as well as a service directory for businesses that serve the Maryland horse industry.

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Most equestrians in Maryland are trail riders, and our members are increasingly concerned about the lack of safe access, for all user groups, to our shared natural resources. We know that other user groups share this concern, particularly as more Marylanders than ever are turning to outdoor recreation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are considering legislative action on this issue and would welcome your participation and support. Specifically, we are considering a request that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources:

- require farmers (or others) leasing public land to maintain a 20-foot border around their fields for unrestricted access to trail heads – because we believe that public land is not “available” if there is no way to access it; and
- prohibit firearms on public land on one weekend day each week – because we believe that public land is not “available” to the public if users risk, or fear the risk, of injury from weapons.

Please let us know if you would like to participate in group action on access to trails.

Our superb system of public trails is important to all Marylanders. We look forward to collaborating with you to keep them accessible and safe for all.

Sincerely,

Kimberly K. Egan  
CO-PRESIDENT

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# MHC letter

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 Stephen Bradley - Oct. 12; Nov. 2  
 Sharon White - Nov. 10

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# Chapman



## October is HORSE MONTH in MARYLAND

**COMING UP!**

- Oct. 1-10 **Capital Challenge Horse Show**, one of the major hunter/equitation shows in the nation, Prince George's Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro
- Oct. 2 **Celebration of the Horse & National Mustang Discovery Ride**, see Mustangs start out on a year-long cross country trek, Tuckahoe State Park, Queen Anne
- Oct. 8 **Ribbon cutting, New Show Arena** Baltimore County Agricultural Center & Baltimore County Horse Shows Association medal finals, Hunt Valley
- Oct. 9 **National Jousting Association National Tournament**, Maryland's Official State Sport, Petersville Farmers Woods, Brunswick
- Oct. 14-17 **Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill**, one of only seven 5 Star equestrian 3-Day events in the world! Fair Hill, Elkton
- Oct. 23 **Jim McKay Maryland Million Day**, Laurel Park Racecourse, Laurel

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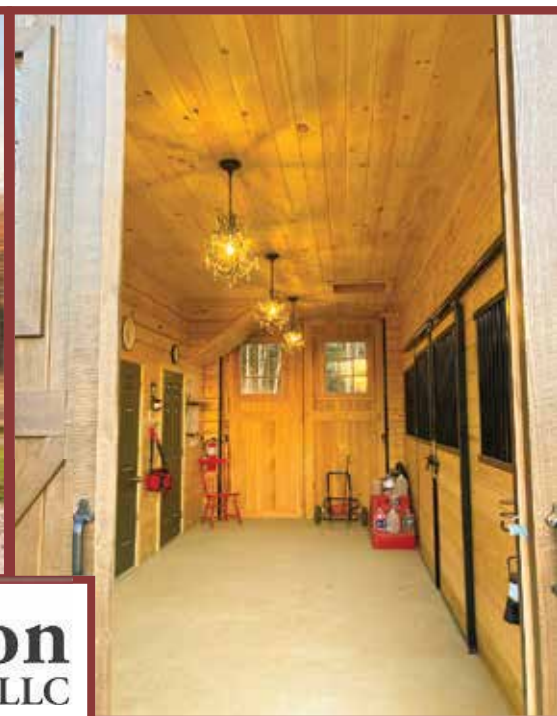
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## Travel Stories



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# Travel Stories

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**October 23:** FMF Halloween Trunk or Treat event

**November 7:** FMF Fall Recognized Horse Trials

**November 21:** IEA Show #2 at FMF

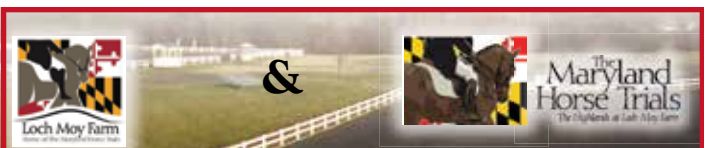
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## Fall & Winter 2021

### SCHOOLING & CLINICS

Oct. 4-7 Week with the Pros  
October 11-17 XC Schooling on Competition Course

### STARTER HORSE TRIALS

October 9-10 MDHT Starter Horse Trial  
October 30-31 MDHT Starter Horse Trial & Starter HT Championships  
Dec. 4-5 Donation Derby

### USEA HT & ACTIVITIES

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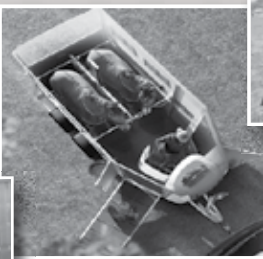
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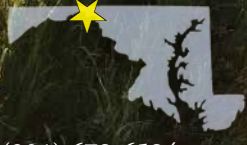
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# The CAPITAL CHALLENGE HORSE SHOW

## Surviving and Thriving During the Pandemic

By Katherine O. Rizzo

Imagine 10 days during which riders from all over the country descend on Maryland, flooding the economy with a staggering \$25 million worth of economic impact. From booked hotels and packed restaurants to supplies purchased from local vendors, the Capital Challenge Horse Show provides Maryland with a significant annual economic boost as well as providing the Hunter/Jumper world with the biggest horse show on the fall East Coast calendar.

In 2019, the show hosted 736 riders representing 49 states for a total of 1,133 entries. Over the course of the show, 43 division champions were crowned as well as 15 Grand Champions. Fifteen Leading Rider awards were handed out along with four National Medal Finals and 10 World Champion Hunter Rider National Champions. The 2019 show held an impressive 4,096 jump rounds.

In 2020, the Capital Challenge Horse Show was forced to move from its traditional home at the Prince George's Equestrian Center to Ohio due to Prince George's County COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. But this year, it is back at PGEC and is bigger than ever.

### In the Beginning...

The Capital Challenge Horse Show was the brainchild of then show managers Oliver Kennedy and Billy Glass. "We had a show up at the Columbia Horse Center but it wasn't doing all that great," Kennedy remarked. "The barn could do better making money from lessons so we were looking for a place to move the show."

Right around the same time, Kennedy, a Maryland-native, got wind of a new equestrian center being built in Prince George's County. "We immediately contacted them and held our first show there in December 1993," Kennedy said. That first show was also the first event ever held at the newly constructed Prince George's Equestrian Center (PGEC).

The following year, the show was shifted to September with the intent of being a preview competition for the fall indoor circuit and was run over six days. "We thought we would just be a good prep for the fall indoors, but now we are the biggest show on the fall circuit," Kennedy added.

Over the years, the show has grown and is currently run over 10 days with Kennedy as the sole show manager. Twenty-eight years later, this year's show runs October 1-10 and is shap-

ing up to be a big one. "We have the biggest wait list we have ever had," said Kennedy. "We currently have over 1,600 entries and will probably run about 1,400."

### All About the Riders

With over 700 riders from all over the country competing each year, the competition at this show tends to be fierce. "We always have amazing competition," Kennedy remarked, adding, "Riders say it's the hardest show in the country to win at because of the level of competition. Scoring an 84 somewhere else often gets you the win but at our show, that might only be seventh place because of the level of competition."

Riders such as Carleton Brooks of Balmoral Farm in West Los Angeles, CA, have high regard for Capital Challenge, returning year after year with several horses and clients. Brooks, who is also a coach, clinician, trainer and rated judge, said, "it is the prestige of competing there that brings us back each year. The best of the best are there with the top [riders] fighting it out."

Brooks typically brings 10-15 horses from California for the East Coast competition circuit, with Capital Challenge being the first stop. "I like to think of it as the 'Triple Crown' of show hunters with Capital Challenge, Harrisburg, and Washington International," he said. This year however, Brooks is skipping the Washington International Horse Show and heading to Kentucky instead after the Pennsylvania Horse Show. "We love Washington when it's in DC... there is nothing like competing in the city like that... but we are going to Kentucky instead of Tryon this year."

Brooks added that competing in the indoor at PGEC is important to his training methods for its "coliseum feel." He explained, "The coliseum setting is really important for the industry as we are losing a lot of great indoors like that."

### Pandemic Pandemonium

While most of the country had shut down early in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was looking like the Capital Challenge Horse Show could be held at PGEC in the Fall, under COVID-19 safety guidelines. Then on August 17, 2020, the show organizers announced that it would be moved to the World Equestrian Center in Ohio due to "Prince George's County Parks Department's tightened regulations surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and its

*continued...*



O'Neill Photo

"It is the prestige of competing there that brings us back each year," said California rider/trainer/judge Carleton Brooks, pictured here competing Striking at an early Capital Challenge Horse Show.



Jump Media

Top riders from all over the country have competed at the Capital Challenge Horse Show, including US Olympic Medalist Joe Fargis, shown here competing in 2000.



Jump Media

"Just pulling off the show last year [during the pandemic] was a huge feat," said show manager Oliver Kennedy, pictured here ringside in 2002.

## The Capital Challenge Horse Show, continued...

decision to decrease the number of horses allowed at the facility.”

Kennedy reported that his team had only four weeks to pack up everything from Maryland and get set up in Ohio. “Just pulling off the show last year was a huge feat,” he said. “I don’t know how we pulled it off. It’s a testament to how good our staff is.”

The pandemic also forced the cancellation of the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg, which moved the North American League Jumper Finals to Capital Challenge in Ohio. “The NAL finals [people] seem to like us so they will be part of this year’s show too,” Kennedy stated.

The pandemic has not finished wreaking havoc for 2021, as Kennedy is finding his normal supply chain crunched. “Rippeon Equipment has been part of the show nearly since day one and they supply our tractors for the show but they are having a hard time finding anything for us to use,” Kennedy explained. “Tractors are in short supply and we are having a hard time finding any to rent either.”

The ongoing pandemic is not going to slow Kennedy and his team down, however, as they put the finishing touches on the set up of this year’s show.

### Soldiering On

One of the reasons PGEC is so well-suited for a horse show this large is because of the number of rings they have available. Kennedy reports that during Equitation Weekend, there will be three competition rings going at once as well as two warm up areas. “The covered arena is primarily used for under saddle classes that weekend and then warm up for less busy days,” he said.

Another key asset of PEGC is the number of permanent stalls and the ample room for temporary stabling. “We have used Brandywine Tent Company since the beginning,” Kennedy explained, adding that around 1,000 horses and ponies are stabled on the grounds during the show.

Vendors have been invited back to PEGC this year with nearly 100% of the show’s pre-pandemic vendors returning for 2021. “We will have vendors set up outside and inside and everyone is to follow the county’s COVID protocols,” Kennedy stated. These protocols include limiting the number of customers in booths and wearing face masks when indoors. “Plus there is all the standard stuff about self-monitoring temperatures and such,” he added.

Even though this year’s show is shaping up to be business as usual, Kennedy is surprised at how big the show has become during the pandemic. “I’m shocked... with everything that is going on

in the world this year... it is just crazy how many people want to come to the show,” he said while getting a bit choked up. “I’m super grateful that [the riders] like us. Not sure what it is about this show... but I’m just so very grateful.”



Jump Media

Many local riders came up the ranks through the Capital Challenge Horse Show, like Samantha Schaefer, shown here winning the WCHR Pony Hunter Challenge in 2002 aboard Halcyon Hawthorne. Schaefer moved on to the hunter horse divisions and now competes as a professional. Also pictured is Nancy Amling, who presented the Foxlair’s Poker Perpetual Trophy to Schaefer, and ringmaster Albert Sabrasula.

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## Get Ready for the

# MARYLAND 5 STAR AT FAIR HILL

## New Event to Feature World-Class Eventing and So Much More!

by the Fair Hill Organizing Committee

The inaugural Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill is set to make its spectacular debut, October 14-17, at the newly constructed Fair Hill Special Event Zone in Elkton, MD (Cecil County).

The Maryland 5 Star is one of only two 5 Star events in the United States and just the seventh worldwide, joining Eventing's other elite 5 star events at Badminton and Burghley in England; Luhmuhlen in Germany; Pau in France; Adelaide in Australia; and the Kentucky Three-Day Event in the U.S. The event's prestigious 5 Star (CCI5\*) designation is the pinnacle of the Olympic sport of Eventing.

The four days of Eventing competition will feature Dressage (Thu-Fri), Cross-Country (Sat) and Show Jumping (Sun). In addition to the CCI5\*-L, the event will feature a 3 Star level competition (CCI3\*-L), which is serving as the USEF CCI3\*-L Eventing National Championship, and The Dutta Corp. USEA Young Event Horse East Coast Championships Presented by Dubarry of Ireland.

Riders who competed in this year's Tokyo Olympic Games are expected to be on hand, including the full U.S. team of Phillip Dutton, Boyd Martin and Doug Payne, plus other Olympians such as Will Coleman and Lauren Kieffer Nicholson of the U.S., Clayton Fredericks of Australia, Jessica Phoenix of Canada, and 2004 individual Gold Medalist Leslie Law of Great Britain!

The event will also feature great shopping, demonstrations, concerts, kids activities, and the Maryland 5 Star Fresh Food Fest, produced in partnership with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (Sunday, October 17, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.). The Food Fest will feature seasonal fruits and vegetables, dairy products, meats and seafood, and much more! There will also be an event for adults only - the Maryland 5 Star

Beer, Wine & Spirits Showcase Powered by Grow & Fortify (Saturday, October 16, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.) with a variety of craft beer, wine, and spirits from local producers.

Tickets include entry to all competitions held simultaneously throughout the event. A variety of single and multi-day ticket packages, along with group sales options are available for purchase. Levels range from General Admission starting at \$15, Grandstand Box Seats, Reserved Club Level and Tier 1 VIP Hospitality offering the most exclusive and elevated experience to spectators overlooking the Main Arena.

There are also a limited number of Tailgate spots available that will provide tailgaters an incredible experience. The chance for families, friends, and co-workers to be together outdoors for a day at beautiful Fair Hill this Fall, while enjoying their favorite tailgating menu, so close to these elite athletes and horses, is sure to be an experience they'll never forget!

For news and updates about the event, follow the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill on social media @maryland5star and sign up for the email newsletter at [Maryland5star.us/newsletter-sign-up](http://Maryland5star.us/newsletter-sign-up).

The Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill is produced by The Fair Hill Organizing Committee, an affiliate of the Sport and Entertainment Corporation of Maryland, and in partnership with Fair Hill International. The Sport and Entertainment Corporation of Maryland is a non-profit under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. tax code. It was established in 2019 to move Maryland forward through sports.

The Maryland Food Bank serves as an event beneficiary of this year's Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill.

Event organizers continue to monitor health and safety protocols. Updates and policies as deemed necessary will be available through the event website.

### FAST FACTS

**WHAT:** Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill

**WHEN:** October 14 - 17, Thursday & Friday start at 8am, Saturday & Sunday start at 9am (3 Star Competition) & noon (5 Star Competition)

**WHERE:** Fair Hill Special Event Zone in Elkton, MD (Cecil County)

**TICKETS:** Starting at \$15, available at [www.Maryland5Star.us/tickets/](http://www.Maryland5Star.us/tickets/)

**BENEFITTING:** The Maryland Food Bank

**DESCRIPTION:** The highest level of the Olympic equestrian sport of Eventing featuring elegant Dressage (Thu-Fri), dynamic Cross-Country (Sat) & exciting Show Jumping (Sun).

Also featuring extensive shopping in the retail vendor areas, equine exhibitions, and other entertainment as well as a number of other special events including the Maryland 5 Star Fresh Food Fest (Food Fest is held on Sunday, October 17 only).

### FURTHER INFO:

[www.Maryland5Star.us](http://www.Maryland5Star.us) or call 410-MD5-STAR (410-635-7827)

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The Equiery & Maryland Horse Council are proud media partners of the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill

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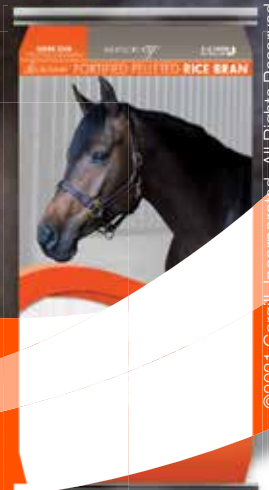
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# Local Competitors Will Make Memories at the **WIHS REGIONAL HORSE SHOW** presented by TTR Sotheby's International Realty

By Kara Pinato Scro / Jump Media

For decades, the Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) Regional Horse Show has been a staple for local Washington D.C., Virginia, and Maryland hunter/jumper competitors. This year, the show will return to Morven Park International Equestrian Center in Leesburg, VA, October 21-24, 2021, and will also host the USHJA Zone 3 Championships. It will be an exciting four days as fans and spectators will be welcomed back following COVID-19 guidelines.

The WIHS Regional Horse Show is filled with tradition, including the opportunity for Children's and Adult Hunter and Jumper riders to qualify to compete the WIHS Children's and Adult Hunter and Jumper Championships presented by MARS Equestrian™, which will again be held at Tryon International Equestrian Center, in Mill Spring, NC, on October 26-31, 2021.

"WIHS and the WIHS Regional Show represent the very best of equine sport competitions," said Mark Lowham, CEO and Managing Partner of TTR Sotheby's International Realty, the 2021 WIHS Regional Show's presenting sponsor. "For our family, it is such an honor to participate and to compete side-by-side with some of the most talented equine athletes in America."

Teach for America, an organization that finds and nurtures leaders who commit to expanding opportunity for low-income students, will be the first-ever charity partner of the WIHS Regional Show. A portion of proceeds from the WIHS Regional Show will be donated to Teach for America.

## In With the New

This year's event will feature the return of the competitive Maryland Horse Shows Association (MHSA) Gittings Horsemanship Final on Saturday, October 23, and a number of exciting new classes for competitors including the MHSA Invitational Thoroughbred Hunter Classic on Thursday, October 21, and the Zone 3 Championship for Hunter Breeding.

In addition, a special trophy for adult amateur hunter riders will debut this year—the Glyndon Memorial Trophy for the WIHS Regional Horse Show Grand Adult Amateur Hunter Champion donated by Patti and Bruce Schindler of Reisterstown, MD. The trophy is in memory of Glyndon, Patti's striking grey

gelding that achieved numerous top honors in the Adult Amateur Hunters throughout his career including MHSA Horse of the Year.

## Honoring a Maryland Trainer's Legacy

Now in its tenth year, the Annual Laura Pickett Excellence in Horsemanship Award presented by Victoria Lowell and Charles Ancona, will be presented to the up-and-coming adult or child rider and his or her trainer who best exhibit the enthusiasm, dedication, style, and commitment to excellent horsemanship that brings out the best in horse and rider. Laura Pickett was a beloved Maryland-based trainer who influenced the riding careers of many riders. Her dedication to teaching good horsemanship and inspiring the next generation of hunter/jumper talent left a lasting impression when she passed away in 2012 from breast cancer. The trophy honors her contributions to the sport she loved.

"On the tenth anniversary of the Laura Pickett Horsemanship Award, I still miss Laura, her generous, kind spirit and her unwavering dedication to her students and their horses. I was lucky to be one of them," said WIHS President Victoria Lowell. "I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to honor her life while recognizing and getting to know each one of the outstanding recipients of this award. I can't wait to review the 2021 applicants!"

## Keeping With Tradition

The WIHS Junior Committee plays a key role in the lead-up to and execution of WIHS and will be onsite at the WIHS Regional Show to help with everything from social media content, WIHS vendor booth support, assisting exhibitors with move in, and more.

For competitors, as in previous years, the WIHS Regional Show will offer Children's and Adult Hunters and Jumpers, a 3'3" Amateur-Owner Hunter division, expanded opportunities for Jumpers, and Grand Championships for Green Hunter, Children's and Adult Hunters, and Children's Hunter Ponies.

Learn more about the WIHS Regional Horse Show presented by TTR Sotheby's International Realty & USHJA Zone 3 Championship, and find links to the prize list, online entry system and application for the Laura Pickett Award at [www.wihs.org/wihs-regional](http://www.wihs.org/wihs-regional).



Hannah Jones Photography

This year's WIHS Regional Show returns to the picturesque show grounds at Morven Park International Equestrian Center in Leesburg, VA.



Hannah Jones Photography



Shawn McMillen Photography

Glyndon earned many championships in the Adult Amateur Hunters, including champion at the 2018 WIHS Regional Show, with Patti Schindler.



Kelly Wilkinson Coffin

Kelly Wilkinson Coffin is the official artist for the WIHS Regional Show for the second consecutive year. This year's painting, "Pep Talk," has been transformed into a poster and is also featured on the cover of the WIHS Regional Show prize list.





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# FAIR HILL: More than a 5\*

By Katherine O. Rizzo

As the international eventing scene shifts to Elkton and the inaugural Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill this month, eyes around the world will be on the competitors and those working hard behind the scenes to put on the newest five-star on the FEL eventing calendar. Whether you are watching the live-stream feed from the comfort of your couch or cheering in person from the competition grounds, one thing worth noticing is the property itself: the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area.

This 5,656-acre park in Cecil County is much more than an eventer's playground. Managed by the Maryland Park Service of the Department of Natural Resources, Fair Hill is known for its open rolling hills, woodlands, and overall natural beauty. It is enjoyed by cyclists, hikers, and horseback riders year-round. The facility is home to the Cecil County Fair, the Fair Hill Races, Elk Creek Combined Driving Event, Foxcatcher Endurance Ride, and of course... Fair Hill International's multiple United States Eventing Association horse trials and starter trials. Starting this year, it is also home to the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill.

How did such an enormous park become the Fair Hill that it is today? Read on for the story of one horseman and his quest to build a sanctuary for fox chasing.

## A Man With a Vision

Born in Surrey, England, in 1896 to Americans Annie Zinn (née Rogers) and William du Pont Sr., William du Pont Jr. was by profession a banker and businessman; his love of horses, fox chasing, and Thoroughbred racing, however, truly make up his legacy. The du Pont family moved back to the U.S. in 1902 and took up residence at the family's Virginia estate, Montpelier, once the home of the 4th U.S. President, James Madison. There, along with his sister Marion (who also became a Thoroughbred breeder and for whom the Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, VA is named), du Pont rode horses and raised champion foxhounds.

In 1919, du Pont married Jean Liseter Austin and the couple moved to Newtown Square, PA. They established Liseter Hall Farm where they bred and trained Thoroughbred racehorses under the name Springlawn Farm. The farm boasted the first indoor galloping track in the U.S. as well as an indoor arena, half-mile training track, breeding shed, hunter barn, show horse barn, and other outbuildings needed to run the large racing operation.

The du Ponts built a similar facility in Delaware, at Bellevue Hall, which William had inherited from his father. During this time, du Pont also began systematically purchasing land in Cecil County and around Liseter Hall in

Pennsylvania. After du Pont and his first wife divorced in 1941, he moved to Bellevue Hall, which was close to his offices at the Delaware Trust Corporation.

Du Pont never lost his love of horses and hounds, and he began building a fox chaser's paradise at Fair Hill, the Cecil County lands he had purchased during the 1920s and 1930s. On the racing side of his businesses, du Pont built 23 racetracks in the US, including what are now Delaware Park and the steeplechase course at Fair Hill.

## Building Fair Hill

Starting in the 1920s, du Pont purchased nearly 8,000 acres along the Maryland-Pennsylvania line. During the Great Depression, he increased his holdings by purchasing land from struggling local farmers and then offering them jobs and housing to allow them to continue to farm the lands. He also hired local residents to build fences, jumps, out buildings, and residences within the property.

Du Pont named the Maryland portion of his property Foxcatcher Farm and built another Thoroughbred racing stable there. One of the notable horses that came out of the Foxcatcher operation was 1938 Preakness Stakes winner Dauber.

Located within this section of the property, du Pont also built a turf course modeled after the renowned Aintree in England. He molded the land, planted and seeded it with high quality turf grass, and then let the turf develop for seven years before running horses over it. He even set aside around 400 acres of his Fair Hill property to grow sod grass to maintain the turf track.

The Foxcatcher National Cup debuted in 1934 and included 19 obstacles, the lowest of which was 4'8" and the highest of which was 6'4". Eventually, du Pont would hold two race meets each September. Now run as the Fair Hill Races each May, it is the only steeplechase meet in Maryland where parimutuel betting is offered. Du Pont's famed course recently received a facelift as part of the renovations of the new Fair Hill Special Event Zone. The race meet was suspended for 2020 and 2021 to let the new turf set properly.

In addition to the racing stables and steeplechase course, du Pont built a kennel and accommodations for his huntsman and staff so that he could move his pack of American Foxhounds up from Virginia to Fair Hill. This pack became the Foxcatcher Hounds. For most of the rest of his adult life, du Pont hunted three mornings a week from Fair Hill before heading to work at the bank. The kennels and barns are currently used by Fair Hill Stables.

To protect his hounds and territory, du Pont fenced in the perimeter of the 8,000 acres with

*continued...*



Katherine O. Rizzo

**A life-size portrait of William du Pont Jr. hangs at the National Steeplechase Association offices, which are located at Fair Hill.**



Katherine O. Rizzo

**It was du Pont who had the bridges and tunnels built at Fair Hill to allow for fox chasing to continue safely as the roadways expanded through the property.**



provided by Louisa Emerick

**Du Pont moved his hounds to Fair Hill from Virginia in the 1930s and chased foxes three-days a week until his death in 1965. When he could no longer ride, he followed along in a Jeep.**

Special thanks to Louisa Emerick (Fair Hill historian), Sally Goswell (Fair Hill Training Center manager), Maryland DNR and the Fair Hill Foundation for contributions to this article.



## Fair Hill, continued...

a high chain link deer fence and took over the maintenance of public roads through the property in order to build many of the bridges and tunnels still used by horseback riders today.

A businessman to the core, du Pont also created a self-sufficient cattle operation at Fair Hill during World War II. He had the grassland for grazing cattle and making hay as well as the cropland to grow the grain needed to feed the cattle. He even built a grain mill, and silos and barns to store everything. He also created a gravity-fed watering system for the cattle and for an emergency fire system. Many of the bullpens and barns he had built are still standing and are rented out by DNR as turnout paddocks for horses.

Du Pont continued to purchase land through the 1950s. Eventually his aging body traded a horse for a Jeep so he could still follow his hounds. He died on December 31, 1965 at the age of 69.

### Maryland Takes Over Fair Hill

In 1975, the estate of William du Pont Jr. sold the Maryland side of the property to the State of Maryland for \$6 million. The property was purchased using Open Space funds. George Strawbridge, a fox chaser, avid steeplechaser, and heir to the Campbell Soup Company, purchased the

Pennsylvania portion of the property.

During sale negotiations, there was an informal agreement that fox chasing, the Fair Hill Races, the Cecil County Fair, and other small activities could continue on the property. There was not, however, a formal covenant requiring that equine activities remain part of Fair Hill's future. Luckily, the State saw the value of these activities and all are still going strong today.

In 2000, the management of the facility was moved to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources which worked alongside local officials to make Fair Hill a multi-use facility. Collaborating with hiking groups, cycling groups, and equestrian groups, DNR has repaired roads, bridges, buildings and overgrown trails within the park.

Equestrian use of the property was expanded in 1983 when the Fair Hill Training Center was built on 350 acres of the park. The training center was the vision of Thoroughbred trainer Dr. John Fisher who, along with investors and fellow trainers George Strawbridge and Gene Weymouth, signed a 98-year lease with DNR to build and run the facility.

The training center includes an all weather dirt track, Tapeta surface track, turf course, and 18 barns with 490 stalls. In addition, the training center also has on-site veterinarians and the

Fair Hill Equine Therapy Center, which offers state-of-the-art rehabilitation and treatment options such as an AquaPacer and a Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy chamber. Two Kentucky Derby winners (Barbaro in 2006 and Animal Kingdom in 2011) and one Belmont Stakes winner (Union Rags in 2012) have come out of the training center.

### Endless Possibilities

The new Fair Hill Special Event Zone has created endless possibilities for additional activities at Fair Hill. The area, located in what was the steeplechase section of the park, now includes three all-weather competition arenas, a wider turf track and new cross-country jump complexes.

It is this section of the park that will serve as the main location for the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill. In order to maintain the rural and natural aspects of the park, all stabling, vendor tents and spectator seating will be brought in for the event and taken back out when the event has concluded.

The new world-class facility not only brings Fair Hill into the 21st century but also increases the value of Fair Hill and helps boost the economy of Cecil County and Maryland as a whole while preserving the history of this legendary property.



Eclipse Sportswire

The new Fair Hill Special Events Zone is part of the Maryland Horse Park System.

### The Maryland Thoroughbred Eventing Series

- Series includes the Maryland-based United States Eventing Association's recognized horse trials and Maryland-based unrecognized/starter horse trials. It is open to anyone who is competing a Thoroughbred (not limited to Maryland residents)
- Compete in at least 4 Maryland-based events in 2021. Recognized Only - Training & Up, Recognized Only - BN & Novice, Unrecognized Only - Intro or Elementary, Combined (Recognized & Unrecognized) - BN & Novice Only. See Website for complete details.
- Complete more than 4 events, only best scores kept.
- Prizes for top 3 horse/rider combinations will be presented in November.

2021 RECOGNIZED DATES

April 9 - 11 Fair Hill International April HT  
 May 1 - 2 Waredaca HT  
 May 15 - 16 Fair Hill International April HT  
 May 22 - 23 MCTA HT at Shawan Downs  
 June 11 - 13 Seneca Valley PC Spring HT  
 July 2 - 4 The Maryland International & HT  
 July 10 - 11 The Maryland HT II  
 July 18 Full Moon Farm HT  
 Aug. 1 Olney Farm HT  
 Aug. 7 - 8 Fair Hill International August HT  
 Aug. 14 - 15 Waredaca HT  
 Aug. 28 - 29 Seneca Valley PC Fall HT  
 Sept. 18 - 19 Marlborough HT  
 Oct. 1 - 3 The Maryland HT  
 Oct. 22 - 24 Waredaca Classic 3-Day & HT  
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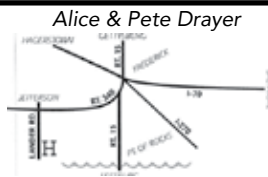
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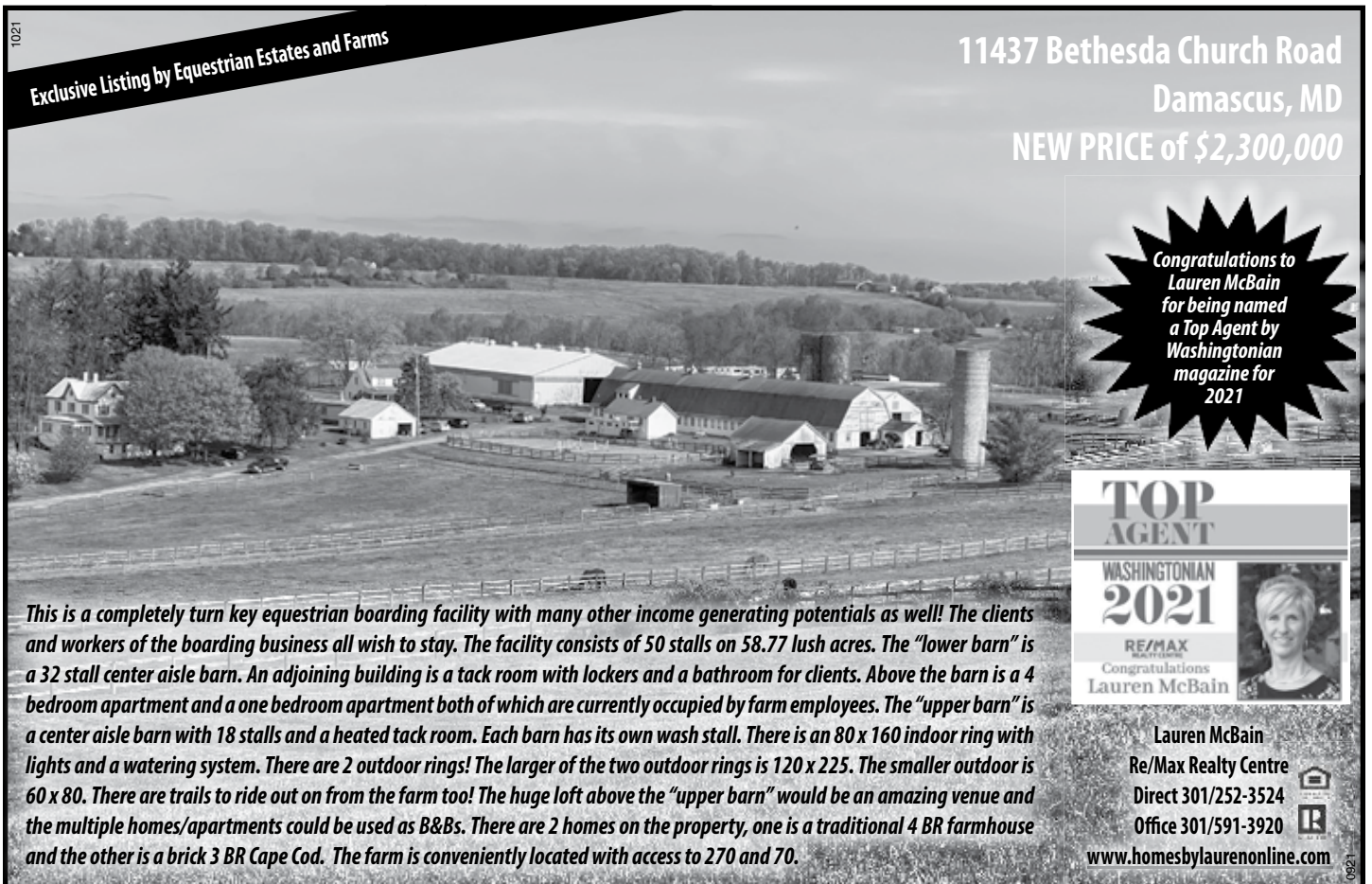
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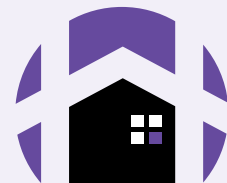
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**ADAMSTOWN:** Nearly 7 acres, improved by a mid-1800s stone, 3BR, 2 1/2 BA farmhouse with access to the Sugarloaf Mountain trails network and close proximity to the Maryland Horse Trials at Loch Moy Farm. Also includes a large barn and other support buildings. Needs fencing, but the pasture is there. Property also has a small pond. Price upon request.



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# LIFE & TIMES

of Marylanders

## MARYLAND WILL MISS...

**Michael Cosgrove**, husband of longtime Goshen Hounds member Linda Cosgrove, died on August 8 from ALS. He was an active part of the club's winning Clay Shooting team.

**Marjory "Bodgie" Fair Read** died on August 18 in Hockessin, DE. Born in Washington, DC, Bodgie grew up in Middleburg, VA; Merion, PA; and Aiken, SC. She started riding horses as a child in Aiken, and she never stopped. She attended Bryn Mawr College and graduated in 1955 with a BS in Biology. She went on to work for DuPont's Haskell Laboratory as a toxicologist. She married Robert Read in 1955, and together they raised two children, Katherine and Howard.

Read was active in US Pony Club through several positions within the Delmarva Region. She was a riding instructor and Director of



**Bodgie Read**

Riding at Sanford School for more than 10 years, and she helped start the Sunny Hills Pony Club. She retired from the Delmarva Region in 2020 after 41 years of volunteer work. She was honored by USPC as being the longest continuously serving Regional Supervisor in the history of USPC.

Read also volunteered for more than 20 years at Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Program and spent more than 30 years as the Dressage Scheduler and Organizer at Fair Hill International. She volunteered in the vet box, as a course flagger, sign maker, and anything else FHI needed through the years. Read was awarded the very first Volunteer of the Year award at the 2015 Dutta Corp. Fair Hill International. Read was also honored with the Maryland Horse Council Pumphrey Memorial Award at the MHC 20Th Anniversary Party in 2005.

## BRIDAL PATHS



Best wishes to **Emily Wilson**, a Program Manager at Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and **Joel Calvert Greenwell Sr.**, who were married on May 22 at her family's Obligation Farm in Harwood.

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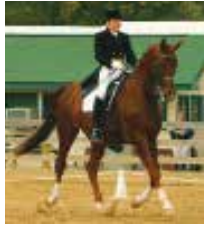
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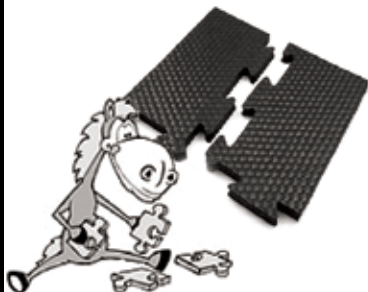
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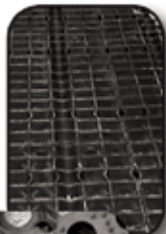
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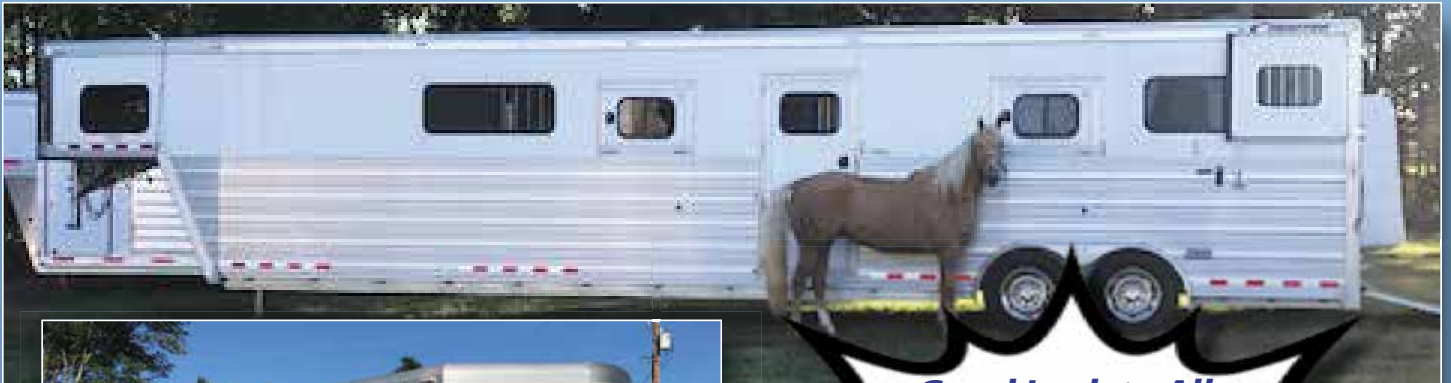
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