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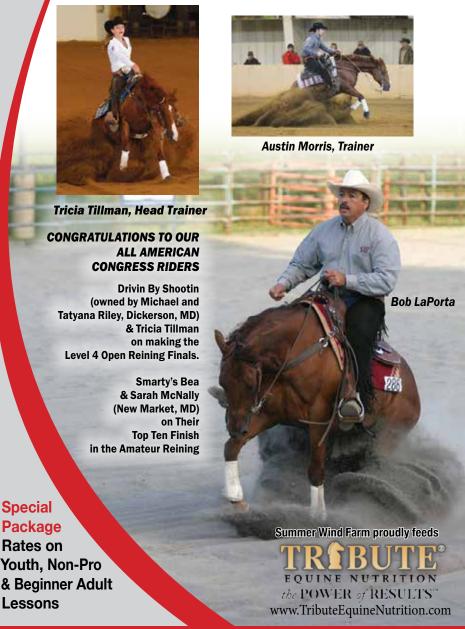






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P.O. Box 610 / 15928 Frederick Road Lisbon, MD 21765

EQUIERY STAFF

Editor-in-Chief/Art Director Katherine Rizzo

katherine.rizzo@equiery.com

Associate Publisher/Ad Sales Tracy McKenna tracy.mckenna@equiery.com

Bookkeeping
Carolyn Del Grosso
carolyn@equiery.com

Advertising Design
Peggy Ingles & Kristen Barth

Independent Sales
Michelle Rosenkilde
443-324-7919
horseyhotline@gmail.com

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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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee meets monthly or more often to oversee the daily business affairs of the Maryland Horse Council.

Kimberly K. Egan, Co-President Corinne Pouliquen, Co-President Ahesahmahk Dahn, Vice-President Crystal Brumme Pickett, Secretary Neil Agate, Treasurer Ashley Adams Aycock Erica Lancaster Jane Seigler Carolann Sharpe Laura Lane-Unsworth

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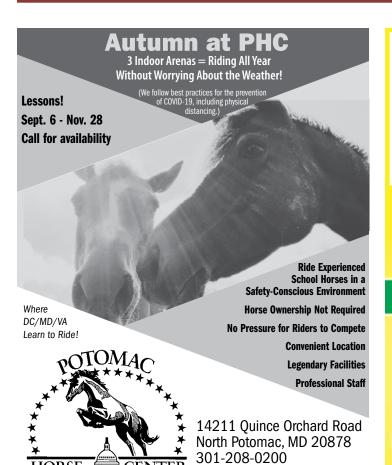
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Letter from MHC's Presidents

by Kimberly K. Egan and Corinne M. Pouliquen

We enjoyed writing our letter this month because all the news is good news, for a change. October saw two firsts for our industry – a new state Office of Outdoor Recreation and the inaugural running of the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill – and in November we will hold our Annual Meeting to preview exciting things to come.

DNR Office of Outdoor Recreation

In late September, Governor Hogan created the Office of Outdoor Recreation (ORR) within the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. ORR's mission is to "enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and the economic benefits they produce," which will include implementing the Maryland Outdoor Recreation Economic Commission's (MOREC) recommendations on how to strengthen Maryland's outdoor recreation industry. Gov. Hogan appointed J. Daryl Anthony as ORR's Executive Director.

Governor Hogan's action has been well-received by the outdoor recreation industry. The Executive Director of the national Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, Jessica Turner, and the President and CEO of the Chesapeake Conservancy, Joel Dunn, wrote in an Oct. 7, 2021 opinion piece in Maryland Matters that "Maryland has taken a big step forward by joining 17 other states across the country and investing in a huge driver of the state's economy — outdoor recreation," which, they noted, includes "everything from skiing to horseback riding, hunting and fishing, to boating and surfing."

Our Government Relations and our Trail & Greenways committees both expect to engage with ORR on a regular basis on behalf of the horse industry. Look for updates in future issues of *The Equiery*.

Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill Results

As you have no doubt heard by now, the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI, the international governing body of equestrian sports) ran the inaugural Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill on October 14-17, one

of only seven such competitions in the world and the highest possible level of competition for international eventers. The level of competition at these five-star events is even higher than at the Olympics. The only other eventing competition at this level in the United States is the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event in Lexington, Kentucky.

The Maryland 5 Star gave us the best possible finish we could hope for – four-time U.S. Olympian Boyd Martin, the pride of the Mid-Atlantic eventing scene and frequent competitor at Fair Hill, Loch Moy and other Maryland venues, won the the competition on the mare On Cue (owned by Christine Turner), becoming the first American to win a CCI5*-L in 13 years.

Boyd Martin rode against the best eventers in the world, including the world's number 1 eventer, Oliver Townend from the United Kingdom, and the New Zealander Tim Price, who was number 3 in the world go-

ing in to the competition. Townend was in the lead for the entire competition until the final 90 seconds. He was the last rider to go and needed a clear show jumping round to beat Boyd. But he dropped a rail at jump 4, a heartbreaking end to two long days of flawless riding. Boyd's margin of victory over Townend was the slimmest of slim – 0.01 points. The crowd, quite literally, went wild.

Stay tuned to the December *Equiery* for more photos and recap from the inaugural Maryland 5 Star.



Boyd Martin and On Cue are the inaugural Maryland 5 Star winners.

MHC co-President Corinne Pouliquen proved on Saturday that she is more than just a horse industry leader and accomplished attorney, she is also a fearsome off-road truck driver. After packing her truck with the leftovers from the MHC tailgate, she kindly offered a ride back to the (distant) parking area to four rain-soaked and bedraggled MHC volunteers. After being told by traffic control police that she could not make a left into the parking, she attempted a u-turn and ended up with the truck nosing into a hidden water-filled ditch. Undeterred, Corinne cheerfully hopped out, waded into the ditch, and locked the four-wheel drive hubs to allow traction on the two wheels that still had contact with the ground. Then she hopped back in, threw the truck in reverse and back out onto terra firma she went - much to the amazement and applause of the small crowd of onlookers that had gathered! Never underestimate the grit and resourcefulness of a horse lady!

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NEWS & VIEWS

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Mechanicsville Animal Cruelty Case

On September 14, Jennifer Katherine Hurry of Mechanicsville was charged with one felony animal cruelty charge and 16 misdemeanor animal cruelty charges. The initial hearing on the case was scheduled for October 8.

According to court documents, the St. Mary's County Animal Control supervisor first contacted the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office on January 5 with concerns about the neglect and maltreatment of several animals on a secluded property in Leonardtown. Hurry, who is 53, confirmed that the animals on the property belonged to her. A drone was used by the Sheriff's Office to observe the area before a search warrant was obtained and executed on January 21.

After two veterinarians inspected the animals, 19 horses, three cows, two goats and several fowl were removed from the property. Two dead horses that were not buried properly were also discovered. Necropsy revealed that one of the horses died of starvation when bone marrow examination showed the horse had 2.8% body fat at the time of its death. Healthy horses typically have 81.7% body fat.

This case is ongoing. We will print updates in future print issues as well as on equiery.com.

NRHA Ceases Negotiations with FEI

On October 2, the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) announced that it would no longer collaborate with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) after a series of failed negotiations. The FEI announced in 2020 that it had terminated the original agreement with NRHA but then approved a new "Memorandum of Understanding" in June 2021.

NRHA said that the NRHA Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Task Force members were "comfortable with that agreement, which would have created a framework for a limited group of international championships." On September 15 of this year, however, FEI sent a draft agreement that was not satisfactory to NRHA. "We are unsure of what led up to this development, and why NRHA was not consulted," NRHA President Rick Clark stated. "At this time, the Executive Committee, with the support of the NRHA Board of Directors, has made the decision to not move forward with a new agreement with FEI."

NRHA Commissioner Gary Carpenter added, "NRHA has worked diligently over the past two years to collaboratively negotiate a new agreement and made it a top priority for the association.... We remained fully committed to working closely with the FEI and were excited for what the future held. Unfortunately, a lack of direct and clear communication from FEI has been one of the biggest hurdles."

MHC Sends Letter in Support of Wheaton Park Stables

Montgomery County is updating its Master Plan for Wheaton Regional Park. During a public meeting on September 9, the county said that while the Wheaton Park Stables are safe for now, it is keeping open the option to re-purpose the privately-operated Wheaton Park Stables (WPS) to a different use at some point in the future.

WPS is an Industry Professional member of Maryland Horse Council, and we have urged Montgomery County to keep the stables open. WPS differs from most other equestrian programs in Montgomery County because it is within walking distance of a dense suburban population that is dominated by a demographic that does not typically have access to horses, horse farms, riding lessons, or any exposure to agriculture or rural life. It is also one of the most, if not the most, affordable riding programs in lower Montgomery County, or, indeed, anywhere in the Washington metropolitan area.

WPS is the type of recreational program that Maryland needs more of, and that Montgomery County needs to support. Indeed, it is the policy of both Governor Hogan and the General Assembly that Maryland needs to do a better job of making outdoor recreational activities available to a wider cross-section of our population. For example, last August, the Maryland General Assembly created the State Park Investment Commission to study, among other things, "the extent to which State parks and associated recreational opportunities are adequately accessible to all populations of Marylanders, including low-income Marylanders, those who lack access to a car, and Marylanders with disabilities." See Press Release, House Speaker and Senate President Announce State Park Investment Commission (August 6, 2021). Although this commission is focused on state parks, the issues of equity and accessibility apply to local parks as well.

For more on WPS, see page 46.



Kudos to Hilltop Farm's Oldenburg stallion, Qredit, who recently won the Dressage at Devon Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W.

New CCI4* in Maryland!

The Board of Directors of the US Equestrian Federation (USEF) approved a list of venues to host CCI4*-S, CCI3*-L and Advanced level competitions for the 2023-2027 calendar on October 2. Included on the list of 35 competitions are three in Maryland.

Remaining on the calendar will be the Advanced division at the Fair Hill International in April and the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill in October, both located at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area in Elkton.

New to the calendar is the addition of a CCI4*-S division at The Maryland International, held in July at Loch Moy Farm in Adamstown. This event already holds CCI-S competitions at the one-, two- and three-star levels

ASPCA Humane Awards

On October 13, the ASPCA celebrated this year's winners of its Humane Awards during a virtual Humane Awards Luncheon. Recipients included the Retired Racehorse Project (RRP) and a Baltimore Rottweiler.

RRP was founded by Steuart Pittman, who is a former President of the Maryland Horse Council and the current County Executive for Anne Arundel County. RRP received the

continued...

NEWS & VIEWS continued...



Kudos to 16-year-old Bryson Butterfly, who earned his first win in Maryland as an apprentice jockey on October 8 riding Alpha Queue at Laurel Park in the season opener.

Equine Welfare Award for its efforts in producing the annual Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium in Lexington, KY. This event is the world's largest competition for retired racehorses.

Dogtor Loki, a Rottweiler owned by Baltimore resident Caroline Benzel, was named Dog of the Year. Loki is a therapy dog and supporter of health care heroes at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Loki and Benzel have delivered more than 7,000 "Hero Healing Kits" to local medical professionals as well as raising more than \$100,000 to deliver more kits and other resources to first responders and health care workers.

MRC Moves to Remove Testing Thresholds for Corticosteroids

From the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

The Maryland Racing Commission, on the recommendation of its Equine Safety, Health and Welfare Advisory Committee, has approved a motion to modify a regulation on five corticosteroids to eliminate testing threshold levels and employ level of detection for the substances.

The MRC took the action at its September 23 meeting at Laurel Park. The change will be filed with emergency status and there will be public comment period. Taking into account the regulatory process involved in rule-making, it is anticipated the update regulation will be implemented by November 1.

The five corticosteroids are dexamethasone, prednisolone, betamethasone, isoflupredone and triamcinolone. The current 14-day standdown period for intra-articular injections will remain in place under 2019 model rules approved by the Association of Racing Commissioners International and Racing Medication and Testing Consortium.

The Equine Health, Safety and Welfare Advisory Committee discussed the proposal at a September 8 meeting as a result of several dexamethasone positives and reports the corticosteroid was being regularly administered by some veterinarians at 48 hours before a race at a lower dose rather than the RMTC-recommended 72-hour withdrawal time at the regular dose.

The committee also recommended that Maryland regulators, in an effort to educate vets and trainers, provide information on how long corticosteroids can linger in a horse's system; advise against deviation from recommended administration times; and point out potential risks to the racehorse.

Coolers for Charity

U.S. Olympic show jumper McLain Ward of New York and his team at Castle Hill Farm have donated coolers and ribbons from his various wins this summer on the European circuit to six charities around the U.S. One such recipient was Maryland's Goucher College Equestrian Team.

Jennifer Smith, director of Goucher's riding program, told *The Chronicle of the Horse*, that "it's obviously incredibly exciting for our students, many of whom would love to go into the industry in some capacity. Seeing these beautiful coolers on our horses and knowing who they were on last ... just so cool and so inspiring!" Smith said the program plans to put several of the coolers in the school's alumni weekend silent auction to raise money for the program. The school may keep a few as special mementos.

Days End Earns EQUUS Grant

On September 22, the EQUUS Foundation announced over \$631,000 in grant awards to individuals and charitable organizations throughout the U.S. The grants are part of the EQUUS Foundation's Horse Whisperers program, which is EQUUS's "named awards program for a special group of people and organizations who are inspired by the magical and powerful impact horses have on our lives." The recipients are individuals and organizations "that are committed to ensuring that American horses are safe and live with dignity throughout their lives."

Days End Farm Horse Rescue in Lisbon was awarded the Jackson Family Horse Whisperer Award. The grant was established in 2020 in honor of the Jackson Family's commitment to horse welfare.

Brenda Herzog Named Joe Kelly Unsung Hero Winner

From the Maryland Million Ltd.

Brenda Herzog has been selected to receive the Maryland Million 2021 Joe Kelly Unsung Hero Award. This award is presented annually by the Board of Directors of the Maryland Million Ltd. to an individual who inspires others with valuable but often unrewarded qualities, such as honesty, hard work and humility.

"I was pretty shocked when I got the call, I was like 'what, why,' I didn't understand, but then they explained somebody had nominated me," said Herzog.

"Not only is Brenda extremely worthy of this award, she is an exemplar of a profile in courage and a life lived in devotion of others," wrote Ross Peddicord, executive director of the Maryland Horse Industry Board, who nominated Herzog for the award.

A lifelong horsewoman, Herzog grew up riding and working in various aspects of the horse industry, and graduated from the renowned Morven Park International Equestrian Institute in Leesburg, Virginia, one of the world's most prestigious riding academies in its day. In her early 20s, she worked as a vet technician and exercise rider for local steeplechase trainers in Baltimore County, where she leased land and opened the doors of her Good to Go Farm in 1990.

But her life was forever changed a year later when she was riding a young racehorse that bolted and ran her into a wall, leaving her with a punctured lung, five broken ribs, a fractured collarbone and a thoracic (T4-T5) spinal injury, which paralyzed her at the chest level. After only three months of strenuous physical and occupational therapy, however, Herzog picked up with life right where she left off and found new ways to continue running her farm.

Since then, she has served as an inspiration to everyone in Maryland's horse community and beyond as she operates a successful boarding and lesson barn in Upperco, MD. She and her husband, Mike, bought and custom-built the facility in the early 2000s.

On top of that, Herzog's farm is one of five that hosts Danny Schuster's Schuster Foundation riding program, which partners with 12 different child care and after-school programs in Baltimore City to teach inner city youth about riding and horsemanship.

To learn more about Herzog, read "Maryland's Local Lady Legends" on equiery.com.

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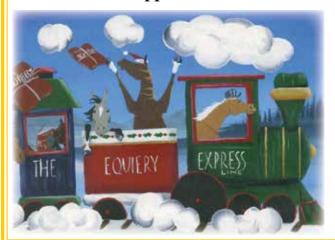






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The number one item that *Equiery* readers are looking for this holiday season is riding apparel followed by a new horse or pony. Third on our holiday survey list was a tack item. Some of the more specific items that readers wrote in were custom jump saddles, a Ford F-350 diesel dually, an Iceland Horse and vaccination against COVID for ages 5 and up world-wide.

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Days End Farm Horse Rescue (Lisbon)	
Equestrian Partners in Conservation (Boyds)	www.epicmontgomery.org
February Star Sanctuary (Knoxville)	
Fox Lea Mini Horse Rescue (Dickerson)	www.foxleamini.org
Freedom Hill Horse Rescue (Dunkirk)	www.freedomhillhorserescue.comsee pg 48
Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue (Mount Airy)	
League Of Maryland Horsemen (Woodstock)	www.leagueofmarylandhorsemen.com
LeCheval Stable Therapeutic Riding & Counseling (Glenwood)	www.lechevalstable.org/
Lifeline Horse Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc. &	
Lifeline Equine Therapy Services (Gaithersburg)	www.lifelinehorserescue.orgsee pg 48
Maryland 4-H Program (College Park)	www.maryland4h.org
Maryland Council of Equestrian Therapies (Catonsville)	
Maryland Equestrian Foundation &	
Rosaryville Conservancy (Upper Marlboro)	https://dnr.maryland.gov
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Maryland Rescue

Southern Maryland Equine Miracles

by Katherine O. Rizzo

In 2017, Melinda Burdin of Chaptico and a small group of Southern Maryland friends decided they wanted to use their empty stalls to help horses in need. They drove up to Pennsylvania and purchased three horses that were slated for a kill pen and took them home. "We thought that as long as we had the space, why don't we help a horse in need," Burdin stated. They did not, however, stop with just those three horses. "We wanted to do more," she said, and in May 2018, the group of friends founded Southern Maryland Equine Miracles, Ltd. Later that year, the organization was approved as a 501(c)(3) non-profit equine rescue.

Building a Network

"We started out very small, and were very novice in what we knew about rescuing horses," Burdin said. "But we have learned a lot along the way even while remaining a small rescue." Southern Maryland Equine Miracles, S.M.E.M for short, does not have a base location, or a permanent sanctuary for its rescues. The group of three board members and four volunteers house horses at private farms. "We quarantine at my home and then find foster farms in the local community," Burdin explained. "I like to think of us more as a networking community than a rescue."

S.M.E.M's network quickly grew to include not only the residents of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties, but other equine networking rescue groups in Maryland such as Maryland Association of Rescues and Equine Sanctuaries (MARES) and Maryland Equine Transition Service (METS). "We joined MARES, which is a huge help with networking," she said, adding, "and I've been helping out with METS horses down in our area.'



S.M.E.M works with other equine rescue organizations, like Lifeline Rehabilitation and Resecue, pictured here with a mare named Gloria, S.M.E.M prevented Gloria from going to auction and then Lifeline trained and rehomed the mare.

In addition, S.M.E.M has partnered with larger equine rescue operations to help with the training of rescue horses after they have been rehabilitated. "Gentle Giants [Draft Horse Rescue] offered us 90 days worth of training with one of their trainers, and we have been sort of the in-between rescue for some horses placed through Lifeline [Horse Rescue and Rehabilitation]," Burdin stated.

Burdin also stated that they work a lot with Freedom Hill Horse Rescue, which is the closest equine rescue to the area that S.M.E.M tends to cover. "I like to think of Freedom Hill as our sister rescue because they serve the same community as we do," she said. "We wouldn't be here today without the mentorship from these larger rescues."

Education

Although S.M.E.M got started by purchasing horses directly from a kill pen at an auction, today, the organization has transitioned more towards education and preventing horses from reaching kill pens. The organization's mission statement reads:

"We are a non-profit organization focusing on ending the shipment of American horses for the purpose of slaughter and human consumption. We support legislation for that goal and are dedicated to helping horses in need and placing them in loving, forever homes. We strive to educate the public on how horses end up in kill pens and how they can protect their equine pets. Remember, any horse that is sold can end up at slaughter."

Burdin explained, "We have been much more active in personal surrenders verses going to auctions now. It's more like 'auction interceptions' to stop the horse even getting to the auction."

Getting their mission statement and goals out to the general public was a bit difficult at first, with S.M.E.M relying primarily on word of mouth and phone calls to various members of its ever-growing network. But then earlier this year, the organization got a huge boost through an unusual source.

Training for Value

It is not uncommon for horse shows and other equestrian competitions to donate funds to local charities. Many of the big shows such as last month's Washington International Horse Show and the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill have charity partners that they raise funds for. It is however, a bit unusual for an entire show series to be created with the sole purpose of raising funds for a charity.

Enter stage left... Julie Call of Free Rein



S.M.E.M. Vice-President Clara Colie and President Melinda Burdin with rescue horse Ultimate Sun.

Equine, LLC in Hollywood, Maryland.

Call grew up in St. Mary's County as a horse hungry girl but left the state looking for bigger and greener pastures. She ended up in Ocala, Florida, where she immersed herself in the Hunter/Jumper world rising up the ranks to trainer of her own facility. "I came back to Maryland for family reasons three years ago and got involved with S.M.E.M because of our common interests," Call said, adding, "I started retraining a few rescues on my own to be lesson-type horses for my program."

Call reached out to Burdin last year and offered to train a pony named Milkshake at a "great discount," according to Burdin. "Milkshake has become like a mascot for us and people ask about her all the time!"

When Milkshake first arrived at Free Rein Equine, Call said she would rear for the farrier, wouldn't stand still, and had a hard time cantering under saddle. "Consistency and care" is Call's motto and now a year later, Milkshake is showing with kids and winning. "She's very good for the kids and showed her first time over fences at BEST earlier this year," Call added. "She didn't win but she went in the ring and did her job."

Having a job is what Call feels is the most important part of working with rescue horses. "Milkshake is now earning her keep. We secure them a life and they become valuable now," she said. As of press, Milkshake is remaining at Free Rein Equine as a lesson and show pony.

"I can help a horse get physically healthy, but it is people like Julie who can do the training and make these horses adoptable," Burdin added.

Showing Rescue Horses

Call's involvement with S.M.E.M quickly grew when she suggested hosting a series dedicated to raising funds for the organization, though the series turned out to solve another problem other than showcasing rescues.

"The 4-H shows in Southern Maryland are starting to die out," Burdin stated, also pointing out that many of those who organized those shows have retired. "Kim Gladwell ran

Maryland Rescue: Southern Maryland Equine Miracles, continued...

the Mounted Wanderers 4-H Club and ran the 4-H Horse and Pony Show at the fair for over 30 years and just isn't able to do it any longer."This is pushing those that want to show to travel further, increasing the cost of each show.

"The cost of showing is often too much for the average family," Call added. "We never had a ton of money when I was growing up but I did the best I could with what I had." That is the message Call wants to pass on to the next generation of horse crazy kids. In addition, Call stated that most people tend to point out problems without offering a solution. "We need to be part of the solution," she said.

Call stepped up and created a local show se-

ries that was more affordable and offered special classes for rescue horses. "The whole thing was Julie's idea. I can't take any of the credit. It was all her!" Burdin said with a laugh. The schooling show series was held at Oakridge Park in Dentsville, managed by Charles County Parks & Recreation.

The four-show series offered both English and Western classes with eight classes being open only to rescue horses. "All entry fees for those classes go to S.M.E.M," Burdin said. "We also set up a booth at each show and do most of our public outreach through these shows."

"It has been very successful," Call said. "It just goes to show you that when you look outside

the box, good things will come."

At each show, a Rescue Champion is crowned with one Grand Champion Rescue Horse being named at the end of the series. The individual winners this year were Elmer, owned by Free Rein, LLC; Irish Comedienne, owned by Jessica Kilcoyne-Beaver; Ginger, owned by Trudy Prenger and War and Thunder, owned by Caroline Lebo. This year's overall series winner was S.M.E.M's own Milkshake!

The series also offered a Rescue Showcase where other rescues could bring adoptable horses for demonstrations to help get those horses adopted. "So far only Freedom Hill has come down, but I understand that... we are fairly far

for most of the large rescues," Burdin stated. "Most of those entering the rescue classes are our own locals but I'm hoping more people will get involved next year," Call said.

Due to the vast number of entries in 2021, the 2022 series will offer eight shows, separating English and Western classes into four shows each. Which gives S.M.E.M and all equine rescues who attend double the opportunities to showcase the value of rescued horses and to continue to facilitate moving horses into new homes through a vast community network of people like Burdin and Call. "It's like working together for the greater good of the community," Call concluded.









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MHC Government Relations Committee Report

Taxes and Horses

It's that time of year when non-profits hope for end-of-year donations and taxpayers look for tax deductions. As a result, we put together this primer on the different kinds of non-profits most common in the horse industry.

Whether an organization qualifies as a non-profit is a question of federal tax law. The section of the tax code that explains the various types of non-profits is 26 U.S.C. § 501. That is why you hear so many people referring to non-profits as "501s."

Charities: The most common type of non-profit in the horse industry is the 501(c)(3) organization. 501(c)(3) status is generally available for any corporation that is "organized and operated exclusively for . . . charitable . . . or educational purposes," or to "foster . . . amateur sports competitions," or to "prevent cruelty to animals to children."

Charitable organizations do not have to pay federal income taxes and do not have to pay Maryland property taxes. Maryland charities are also exempt from paying sales tax, as long as the corporation has applied for and received a certificate of tax exemption from the Office of the Comptroller.

The major limitation on charities is that "no substantial part of the [ir] activities" can consist of "attempting to influence legislation...or interven [ing] in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office." In plain English, this means that, generally speaking, charities must keep their lobbying expenditures under 20 percent of their total expenditures.

Trade Associations: Another type of non-profit common in the horse world is the 501(c)(6) corporation, which includes "business leagues." IRS explains that a "business league is an association of persons having some common business interest, the purpose of which is to promote such common interest and not to engage in a regular business of a kind ordinarily carried on for profit." IRS defines "business leagues" to include trade associations.

The Maryland Horse Council is a trade association, and so this is the chapter of the tax code under which we are organized. The American Horse Council, the trade association for the national horse industry, is also a 501(c)(6).

Trade associations can engage in an unlimited amount of lobbying provided the lobbying furthers their tax-exempt purpose. For example, MHC can (and does) engage in unlimited lobbying on issues that affect the Maryland horse industry without jeopardizing its tax status.

Social Clubs: The last type of non-profit common in the horse industry is social clubs, which IRS defines as membership clubs organized for "pleasure" or "recreation." Trail riding clubs, hunt clubs, polo clubs, and the like can qualify for 501(c)(7) status. The only real limitation on social clubs is that "substantially all" of their activities must be for the pleasure or recreation of their members.

We always recommend that you consult your financial adviser on any issue relating to taxes. We also caution readers that not every charitable donation is tax deductible, and whether a donation is tax deductible or not depends on your individual financial situation.

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American Horse Council's Tax Bulletin

Charitable Donations in the Equine Sector

By T. Randolph Catanese, Esq., for the American Horse Council's September 2021 Tax Bulletin

The American Horse Council produces a quarterly Tax Bulletin to keep members up to date with important tax court cases and regulations. The most recent bulletin relates to horses or other property being given as a charitable contribution. We thought this would be a helpful adjunct to our Government Relations column on non-profits.

Deduction for Donating a Horse to Charity

If a horse or other property is given as a charitable contribution, the donor may generally deduct the fair market value of the property. However, when property given to a charity would result in ordinary income to the donor if the property had been sold instead, the amount of the gift must be reduced by the amount of the ordinary income that would have been reported by the donor had the property been sold instead of donated. Also, if a horse that is eligible for capital gain treatment has been depreciated and is then donated to the charity, the amount of the gift is the value of the horse reduced by the amount of depreciation recapture. The deduction amount must also be reduced if gifted tangible personal property does not in some way relate to the purposes that give rise to the charity's tax exemption.

The equine gift may not be in exchange for a financial or other economic type of benefit. In addition, a written appraisal performed by a qualified appraiser is generally required for each horse (or other property) donated when the claimed charitable contribution deduction is in excess of \$5,000.

Deduction by an Individual

An individual may claim an itemized deduction for contributions to a qualified charitable organization (Schedule A-Form 1040). The charitable deduction in any tax year is limited to a percentage of the taxpayer's contribution base determined by the type of organization receiving the donation and the type of property donated. Any excess in the tax year may

be carried forward for 5 years. If married individuals file a joint return, the percentage limitation depends on the aggregate contribution base of both spouses. A limit also applies to the amount of the charitable deduction allowed for gifts of appreciated property and is imposed before applying the percentage limitation.

Generally, the percentage levels for an individual are:

- 60% of the taxpayer's contribution base for contributions of cash for tax years 2018 through 2025 to public charities
- 30% of the taxpayer's contribution base for contributions of capital gain property to public charities
- 50% of the taxpayer's contribution base for contributions of cash before 2018 and ordinary income property to tax exempt organizations
- For contributions of ordinary income property to qualified charitable organizations other than public charities, the lesser of 30% of the taxpayer's contribution base or the excess of 50% of the taxpayer's contribution base for the tax year over the amount of charitable contributions qualifying for the 50% deduction ceiling, including carryovers
- 20% of the taxpayer's contribution base for contributions of capital gain property to qualified charitable organizations that are not public charities

For tax years beginning in 2020 only, an eligible individual may claim an above-the-line deduction in computing adjusted gross income of up to \$300 for any qualified charitable contribution in response to the COVID-19 crises. (CARES Act IRC Section 62(a)(22), and (f)(1).)

The 60% limitation on the deduction of charitable contributions of cash by individuals is suspended for qualified charitable contributions made in 2020 in response to COVID-19. An individual may deduct any qualified cash contribution as long as the contribution does not exceed the individual's contribution base (100%) and any excess may be carried forward

for 5 years. (CARES Act Section 2205(a).). There are limitations depending on the organization's status as a charity.

If the taxpayer is a partner in a partnership or a shareholder in an S corporation, the election to claim the deduction with respect to the qualified contribution is made by the partner or shareholder.

Deduction by a Corporation

A corporation's deduction for charitable contributions is limited to 10% of its taxable income for the year (25% for qualified contributions in 2020) calculated without regard for items like deductions for dividends, deduction for a bond premium, and any net operating loss or capital loss carryback to the tax year.

Corporate donors that qualify as farmers or ranchers may deduct certain qualified conservation contributions of real property interests up to the excess of the donor's taxable income over all other allowable charitable contributions.

Charitable contributions that exceed the 10% limit may be carried over the corporation's 5 succeeding tax years. But deductions in those years are also subject to the maximum limitation (IRC Section 170(d)(2)). And, except for the carryover rule, a deduction is allowed only for the charitable contribution paid during the tax year.

Conclusion

A corporation's deduction for charitable contributions is limited to 10% of its taxable income for the year (25% for qualified contributions in 2020) calculated without regard for items like deductions for dividends, deduction for a bond premium, and any net operating loss or capital loss carryback to the tax year.

Corporate donors that qualify as farmers or ranchers may deduct certain qualified conservation contributions of real property interests up to the excess of the donor's taxable income over all other allowable charitable contributions.

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Learning the Language of Equus

By Katy Whipple

In May 2021, I had the privilege of spending three weeks as an intern at the Monty Roberts Mustang and Transition Horse Program (MRTHP), housed at Flag Is Up Farms in Solvang, California. I learned about Roberts's methods and how his team is able to meet the individual needs of the horses in the program.

MRTHP was created to help Right Horse adoption partners make their horses more adoptable through retraining and remediation, depending on the needs of each individual horse. The program teaches interns about the language of Equus, which is how Roberts describes the way horses communicate. Interns learn how Equus allows humans to "talk" to horses in their care more effectively and in a non-threatening way. Successful communication between human and horse, as is the case between human and human, makes the partnership more solid and more productive, and sets the partnership up for success.

I had the opportunity to work with a wide range of horses: freshly off-the-track Thoroughbreds, highly trained western show horses, stoic mustangs, sassy ponies, and a terrified and untrusting feral horse. The power of Equus is that it is universal to horses. It is the language that herd matriarchs use to communicate with and control their herd, and it is taught to every foal by its dam. Equus was effective no matter which horse I worked with at the farm. I saw how even the smallest change in my communications led to immediate results-a couple of shallower, quicker breaths, for example, would cause the horse to speed up. The principles are constant, and the key is to become fluent in those principles so as to be clear, confident, and communicative with the horse.

One of the more challenging and rewarding horses in the program while I was there was Poppy, an OTTB mare. This sweet girl was tough to



Katy getting some first touches on Starlight in the Monty Roberts Gentling Facility chute. This is the first day of work after Starlight's arrival at Flag Is Up Farms.

connect with. She was highly distractible, and she would move around the enclosed round pen with her head up, trying to catch a whiff or glimpse of whatever was going on outside. Our instructor, Simon D'Unienville, my fellow intern Bonnie McRae (from After the Races, a Maryland nonprofit rehabbing and rehoming center for OTTBs and a Right Horse partner), and I tried unsuccessfully to Join-Up with Poppy. She had a hard time focusing long enough to commit to the relationship we were offering.

Toward the end of my internship, we brought Poppy in to complete the Right Horse's Basic Behaviors Profile. We decided to try a Join-Up with her again, and it was my turn to try. I had learned enough at this point to follow the horse rather than push the horse, so my expectations were low. She had been through the phases that lead to Join-Up a few times already, so we hoped latent learning had taken effect and she was ready for the next step. My three weeks of education and practice may have made me a better communicator. I was certainly clearer in my language. The combination of her latent learning and my improved communication skills was the ticket. We completed a Join-Up! When she turned and took a step toward methe moment of Join-Up-my mouth dropped, and I quickly had to compose myself so I wouldn't lose her. What a gorgeous moment that was, to be the person that this otherwise challenging mare had agreed to converse with.

Another highlight of my time at Flag Is Up was my work with Starlight. Starlight was a troubled mare who we suspect had been used in tripping, a barbaric and traumatic practice where a gal-

> loping horse is lassoed around the front legs and caused to crash to the ground. Understandably, Starlight was terrified of humans, and her owner, who had purchased her from a kill pen, had been unable to handle her for the whole six months she'd owned her. Once Starlight came to Flag Is Up, we worked with her twice a day every day. The main priority was to help her accept a trim because her feet were in bad shape. We covered a lot of ground with her in the less than two weeks we had her before I came home. When she arrived she had a 30foot bubble: under no circumstances were humans allowed in that bubble. By



Poppy and Katy after their successful Join-Up

the end of the first day, with the help of the Monty Roberts Gentling Facility, she accepted a halter and line, she was leading with a good amount of comfort, and she was allowing touches outside the chute. Just a few days later, she was following us at liberty, albeit cautiously, around the gentling pen; she was allowing touches down her legs; and was she much less reactive to our general presence.

Starlight was different from the rest of the horses in the MRTHP because she was in need of so much rehabilitation

and recovery from her presumed past abuse. She came with a lot of baggage, and we had to convince her it was okay to let go of that baggage. Using the Monty Roberts Gentling Facility meant that we could safely and effectively show her that we didn't mean her harm. Our touches weren't going to hurt. Our lines and halters didn't make her fall. She was safe. While she remained skeptical for a while, she quickly trusted us to do basic things with her. It is humbling to work with animals who have experienced so much trauma at the hands of humans—they can be so generous with their trust. Showing them safety and love is life changing, for both them and us.

I hope that my work with Poppy, Starlight and the other MRTHP horses at Flag Is Up Farms helped them transition to their next careers. The work also made a lasting impact on me both personally and professionally. The language of Equus helped me to understand more accurately the experience level of the horses I was handling in my work as the Assessments Specialist at the Maryland Equine Transition Service. It is also helping me in my new position as the Supporter Engagement Coordinator at Days End Farm Horse Rescue. I can now discuss the more subtle behaviors of the horses we may see on tours, and what horses may be experiencing in their rehabilitation and training journeys. This helps the supporter and the horse connect.

My time at Flag Is Up Farms was invaluable, and I hope I will have the opportunity to visit again. The promise the language of Equus holds for equine welfare is vast, and I feel it is important to bring the lessons I learned into my work whenever possible. Continually improving our ability to communicate with the horses in our care is a conversation that needs to happen among equine welfare advocates across the country.

Katy Whipple is the Supporter Engagement Coordinator for Days End Farm Horse Rescue. Formerly, she was the Assessments Specialist for the Maryland Equine Transition Service, a program of the Maryland Horse Council Foundation. She is committed to the advancement of equine welfare in Maryland and across the country.

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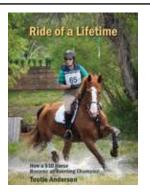
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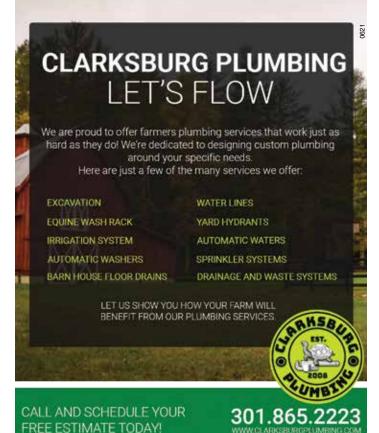
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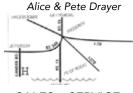
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OCT UT & ABOUT

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The NH Equestrian Team at the October Lytle's Farm Horse Show. From left: Jane Zara, Anne Glass, Keira Paige, trainer Kaityln Nicely-Harvey, and Marya Norton.



Samantha Resch's Jack Russell Lila giving LuAnne Novello's foal CrackaRooZ a kiss.



Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club junior member Camilla Hubbard at the club's opening cub hunt.



Erik Arnesen and Ross Peddicord (MHIB Executive Director), pictured with Jo Ann Bashore of the Equine Rescue Ambulance Fair Hill Division, stopped by ERAFH's display at the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center's "Celebration of the Horse" to see the new Becker Sling that was purchased with an MHIB grant.

More Out & About photos on Facebook!



Addison Huffman's Clantus finished seventh in the International Hunter Derby at the Maryland Horse & Pony Show.



Bonnie Norris and Koko hacking at Union Mills.



Jocelyn Ellis of Safe Haven Farm earned a Reserve Championship at the October St. Timothy's School show.



Jennifer Stoloff Cook with her foal Epiphany and mare Dofina at the September 15 GOV inspection.



Beth Collier of Lusby taking a lesson aboard Mary Russell's Solsticio del Verano at Lucky Cricket Farm in Huntingtown.



Emma Willmore with her favorite lesson pony Bella at Free Rein Equine, LLC in Hollywood, MD.



The ladies of The Big Easy show stables had a great time at the Country Hill Farm series opener earning three Reserve Champions and two Champion ribbons. From left: Harper Fields, Natalie Paley, Delaney Hartgen and Neha Kamineny.



An early September morning at Robin Townsend's farm in Keymar.



Gabrielle Cottone's homebred Oldenburg filly (Saint Sandros Caspian x Welts Wisteria) was named Premium Foal, Site Champion Filly and Overall High Scoring Foal at the inspection held at Flying Change Farm in PA.



Peter "PJ" Orthwein (blue) and Louisa Huber (white) at the at the Maryland Polo Club in Jarrettsville this past September.



Chrissy Hall on Fancy and Juls March on Apollo take a ride around their neighborhood in Westminster.

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2021 RECOGNIZED DATES

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

Aug. 7 - 8 Fair Hill International August HT

- 24 Waredaca Classic 3-Day & HT

Aug. 28 - 29 Seneca Valley PC Fall HT Sept. 18 - 19 Marlborough HT - Cancelled Oct. 1 - 3 The Maryland HT

July 10 - 11 The Maryland HT II July 18 Full Moon Farm HT Aug. 1 Olney Farm HT

Aug. 14 - 15 Waredaca HT

Nov. 7 Full Moon Farm HT

May 1 - 2 Waredaca HT

11 Fair Hill International April HT



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Charlize Stair and Watch Little Rock running Romain Ampe riding Long Trip Alone at the barrels at the Maryland State Fair.



EPRH Reining Show in October.



Bob Enfield winning the Pro Class in Jousting at The Great Frederick Fair.



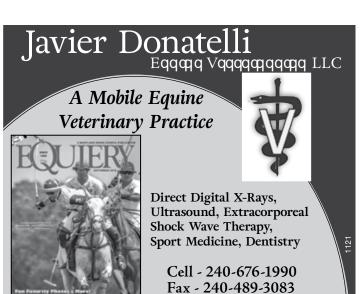
Laila Bolsteins of Mt. Airy finished seventh in the Anne Katrin Urzynicok and Hideway Open Modified division at the Maryland Horse Trials 3 at Loch Moy Farm riding Sabino Canyon.



Maryland Horse & Pony Show.



Cate Carrick Nellans and Wynnfield Noelle share some quiet time during the at the All Standardbred Horse Show held at The Great Frederick Fair.



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MHC Farm Stewardship Committee Report

Celebrating High-Quality Horse Farm Stewardship in Maryland

Spotlight on Persimmon Tree Farm, Westminster, Carroll County

When it comes to implementing best practices to protect our natural environment, horse farms can be significant and important contributors to meeting the goals of carbon reduction, clean water protection, and wildlife habitat preservation. Persimmon Tree Farm, owned by Maryland Horse Council member Carolyn Krome, is an example of a horse farm managed for the maximum benefit of the twenty hunter/jumper show horses on the property AND for implementing high-level environmental protection practices. Krome purchased the farm in 1985 and has installed a variety of best management practices over the course of many years. Persimmon Tree boarders appreciate the high-quality care of the horses as well as the natural beauty of the farm.

This 132-acre farm has hilly topography, woodlands, and multiple natural water sources. Because quality farm management starts with

the layout and maintenance of the pastures, the horses benefit from quality grazing in fields laid out to minimize erosion around gates. All water courses are outside of the pastures. The pastures are mowed,

limed, dragged and over-seeded on a regular basis. Based on the turnout management system, the number of horses per pasture is in the range of two acres per horse. The pastures provide forage and natural exercise for these top competition horses. The pastures are also a net plus for the environment. The grasses and soil fix atmospheric carbon through photosynthesis and the breakdown of organic matter. The roots in the ground and consistent grass cover slow down water runoff to minimize erosion, remove sediment, and absorb nutrients before the water enters the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Water management on the farm incorporates best practices for streams, wetlands and hard surface runoff. The buildings, driveway, and parking areas are bordered by grassy verges to slow down rainwater runoff. Manure is collected on a concrete pad and hauled off the property. The steep slopes of the farm that are not suitable for pastures are planted in warm season grasses to hold the soil. These are kept healthy through dethatch-

ing and controlled burns. In an area that regularly flooded, a wetland was established and the stream was restored with vegetation along the banks to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff. New trees were planted to increase the soil's water retention capacity and to fix atmospheric carbon. The water leaving the farm is now clean.

The several acres of woodlands on the property are managed with expert advice for tree health and propagation of native species. Trees within pastures provide shade and wind breaks, and they are fenced off to protect them and to provide sheltered places for wildlife. These mature trees are also carbon fixing champions.

Wildlife habitat is of special interest to Krome. Each zone of the farm provides support for birds, forest animals, bees, and butterflies. Native plants are cultivated around the farm and maintained in a healthy condi-

> tion through dethatching and regular seeding. Wildlife of all types is seen on the farm every day.

> Finally, Krome is a leader in using and promoting the many farm and environmental support programs at

the county and state levels, including technical and financial assistance. In her experience, these land management practices can be put in place while keeping costs reasonable and tapping into available resources. She also uses the farm, through offering guided tours and hosting meetings of experts, to educate horse farm owners and managers, as well as other interested parties, on how to respect the land and run a successful riding operation at the same time. In recognition of her leadership, Persimmon Tree Farm was the first horse farm in Maryland to qualify for the Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program (FSCAP) of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD). She has been and remains an invaluable resource for the Maryland Horse Council Farm Stewardship Committee.

If you are interested in serving on MHC's Farm Stewardship Committee, please contact me theryjane@gmail.com.





Persimmon Tree Farm (Westminster) was recently awarded one

of four Maryland Leopold Conservation Awards for farm owners

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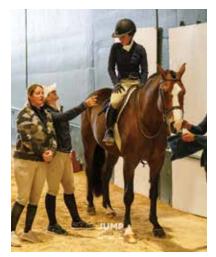
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NOY DOLL BOUT

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Ashley Foster of Brookeville and Emilio at the in gate before competing in the WCHR Developing Professional Challenge.



Ava Berman of Baltimore riding Kingsbury to win the \$10,000 NAL Children's Hunter Finals.



Samantha Schaefer of Westminster finished second in the Green Conformation Handy Hunter Stake with Caristo. The pair also competed in the WCHR Professional Challenge.



John French, who grew up in Colombia, Maryland, rode Babylon to win the WCHR Professional Challenge. The pair also earned a blue ribbon in the Green Hunter Handy 3'6" Section A division and were awarded the Grand Hunter Championship.



Kathryn Kranking of New Market piloted Mahalo to victory in the \$10,000 NAL Adult Hunter Finals.



Dorli Burke of Salisbury and Charming earned the Reserve Championship in the Amateur Owner Hunter 36 and Over division.



Payton Flander of Lothian rode Conlara to win the WCHR Children's Challenge.

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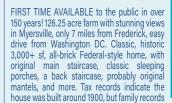
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Property also includes a tenant house, smoke house and other outbuildings, all in need of renovation. 150 tillable acres, currently in crops to local farmer, could easily convert to hayfields and pastures. Property retains subdivision rights and is also eligible ag preservation program which pays substantial cash in exchange for the release of development rights. MDFR2003970 \$3,400,000

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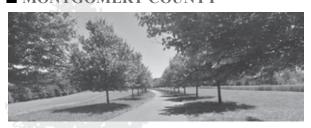


Spectacular 13ac equestrian estate: in Cecil Co. w/beautiful water views. Farm is ideally situated midway between Philadelphia & Baltimore. Only 2hras to NY. 1hr to Annapolis or DC. Main residence designed to maximize water views from nearly every living space & BR. Continue water adventures from your inground pool or launch your boat from any of the 3 nearby boat basins. Well ventilated 5 stall barn w/wash stall, tack room/office, & fully finished 1 BR apartment with kitchen/laundry/ bath above. The Morton shed is large enough for your boat, RV, a shop and more. Janina Freerks. Keller Williams Select Realtors: 443-584-5846(C), 410-972-4000 (O), Janina_freerks@kw.com. MDCC2001140. MDCC2000438





■ MONTGOMERY COUNTY



DAMASCUS: 58 acre Estate lot with a 5 BR perk, mostly open with a 360 degree view of the structural Reserve. A tree lined driveway has been constant Surable 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 in the land a land 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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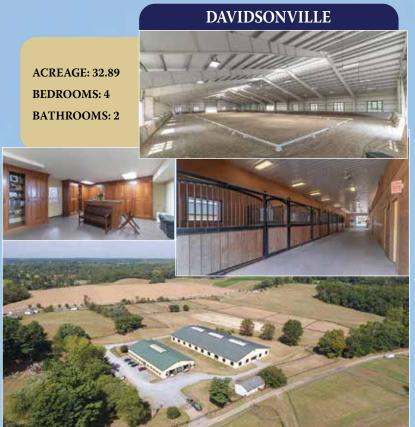
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25440 Old Hundred Rd., Dickerson MD 20842 TOP PRODUCER Welcome to Hidden Heights Farm, a thoughtfully designed 11-acre horse farm which WASHINGTONIAN 2021, 2020 boasts a 7 stall barn with wash stall, tack, and feed room. All 7 paddocks have electricity and water; one paddock has run-in shed. Indoor arena and outdoor arenas. Main house is perfectly situated for stunning sunset views with over 3400 sq ft of living space, including 5 spacious bedrooms, 3.5 BA, and a back deck perfect for stargazing. The lower level is Michael D. Fox, CRS completely finished with a kitchen, full bath, bedroom and open living room. It has its own 301-938-3148 walk out entrance with courtyard. Conveniently located with access to 270. Contact listing www.michaeldfox.com agent Mike Fox, 301-938-3148, or mikefoxrealtor@gmail.com. MDFR2004344 Samson Properties

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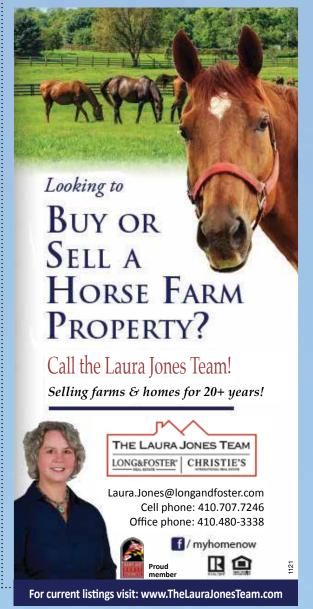
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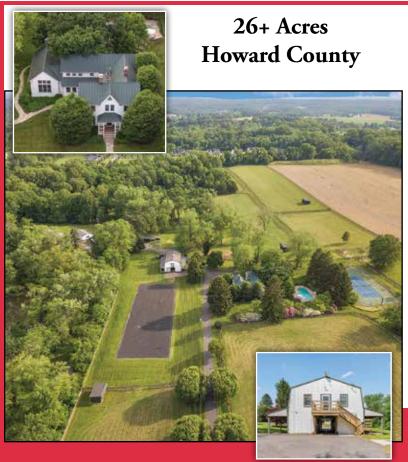
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of space for training and conditioning horses here as well with a covered hot walker, large coverall indoor areana, and well maintained conditioning track in addition to 37 acres of flat open pasture. Property is in Clean and Green. Shown by Appointment Only. Roof and HVAC are less than 5 years old. \$1,000,000.



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7401 MORGAN RD, WOODBINE, MD

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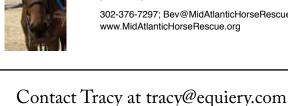
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LIFE & TIMES

of Marylanders

MARYLAND WILL MISS...

Thomas F. Harvey Jr. died on September 5 at the age of 87. Harvey was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and served in the U.S. Navy before becoming an English teacher in Baltimore County. He had a horse farm in Monkton and was a supporting member of Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club and Mt. Carmel Hounds.

Walter Wickes Brewster of Lutherville died on September 8 at the age of 90. Brewster was a retired stockbroker for Alex. Brown & Sons as well as a conservationist and fox chaser. Brewster was born in Baltimore and was a descendant of Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Harris Brewster, the U.S. Attorney General from 1881 to 1885.

Brewster graduated from the Gilman School in 1950 where he was captain of the wrestling team. In 1953, he married Margaret Rennert Perkins while attending the University of Virginia. Brewster graduated from UVA in 1954 and served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany. After his Army days, the Brewsters purchased 130-acres in Glyndon to establish Milestone Farm. The couple remained there until 2001 when they sold the property and moved into a house off Butler Road they called The Covert.

Before joining Alex. Brown & Sons in 1967, Brewster worked for Baugh & Sons Co., a phosphate fertilizer and agricultural company affiliated with Baugh Chemical Co. in Baltimore. With Alex. Brown & Sons, Brewster was a stockbroker and chaired the firm's charitable foundation until he retired in 2000. The Brewsters also established a Brewster Family Fund at the Baltimore Community Foundation and donated to schools and organizations.

As a horseman, Brewster hunted with Green Spring Valley Hounds and also raced over timber. With the hunt club, he served as hunt secretary, treasurer and president at one time or another. As a timber rider, Brewster is most noted for completing the "Triple Crown" of

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Maryland steeplechasing aboard Clifton Dan in 1948. That year, the pair finished second in the My Lady's Manor, fourth in the Grand National and third in the Maryland Hunt Cup.

After he retired from racing, Brewster continued to stay involved in the sport as an owner and by serving on the Grand National Race Committee for 30 years. He also served on the Maryland Hunt Cup committee for 25 years and was a founding member of Shawan Downs in 1997. Brewster was awarded the S. Bryce Wing Award in 2013 for his service to the sport of steeplechasing,

Richard L. Golden of West Palm Beach, Florida, died on September 18 at the age of 82. Golden was one of the founders of Northview Stallion Station in Chesapeake City, and he served as the company's President and CEO for over 30 years.

Golden was born in the Bronx and made a living in New York's garment industry, where he also became interested in Thoroughbred racing. He purchased property in Chesapeake City in 1986 and created Sycamore Hall Farm, which bred several stakes winners. In 2016, he was the breeder of three Maryland-bred champions: Giant Run, Greatbullsoffire and Top Striker. Golden was named Maryland Breeder of the Year in 2018.

When Windfields Farm, one of Maryland's largest breeding farms at the time, shut down in 1988, Golden, along with Allaire duPont and Tom Bowman, stepped in to keep sires Smarten, Caveat, and Two Punch in Maryland. They opened Northview Stallion Station in 1989 on the site of Windfields Farm's former Northview annex. They moved the farm to its current location in 1991. Northview Stallion Station added Waquoit, Polish Numbers, Private Terms, and Not For Love to its stallion roster early on. Not For Love was Maryland Stallion of the Year 13 times and Northview stallions have earned that title 24 times since 1989. Most recently, Great Notion has been Maryland Stallion of the Year for the past five years.

Wilson "Butch" Gardner

submitted by Lou Steinfort

Legendary Maryland horseman Wilson "Butch" Gardner died on September 20 from complications of COPD. He was 69. Gardner grew up on the family farm, Oak Knoll Stables,



Wilson "Butch" Gardner riding Pixie in 1964 at the Maryland Pony Show in Timonium.

in Brandywine. The Oak Knoll Stables name is on many perpetual Maryland Horse Shows Association trophies as Gardner was often the winning rider.

He began riding before he could walk, following in his older siblings' footsteps. Gardner made his living as a professional rider and trainer, and also had a career as a farrier. As a young boy he showed many ponies to success including: Royal Mist, Severn Wings, Moon Comet, Farnley Hili, and Crown Prince. After showing in the juniors, Gardner showed many top hunters, but his first love was the jumpers. Some of his winning rides came on jumpers such as Third Eclipse, Lyrical Lou, and Marathon Mike. Other top local horses were Cutladdy's Champ, a stallion owned by Bette Sachetti of Finksburg, and Ringside Gossip, owned by Anton "Tony" Wilson of Annapolis.

After health concerns curtailed his riding, Gardner spent his last years in Chestertown, living at the home of his friend David Wright. For the past year, he enjoyed being the leader of a local AA meeting and Bible study group.

Gardner was predeceased by his parents Rufus Ransom and Mary Gardner, and siblings Randi, Gary, Billie Ann and Wayne Gardner. He is survived by his sister Bobbie Gardner Stedding Gibbon of Woodbine and two sons, Gary and Carl Gardner, both of Califoria.

Erika Sommer of Harford County died on September 23 at the age of 38. She graduated from Aberdeen High School and earned a B.A. from Salisbury State in 2005. She spent most of her professional life working in IT in the health care industry. In her free time, Sommer was out riding her Thoroughbred Routie or camping with her boyfriend.

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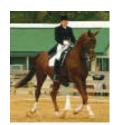
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