



The Horsemen's Newsletter

June 2007

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Maryland Million continues to expand

The Maryland Million—one of the few bright spots in Maryland racing—is providing expanded opportunities for horsemen.

The deadline for nominating prospective runners to the program has been extended to July 31 of the horse's 2-year-old season. (Once nominated, a horse remains eligible for life; however, there are no supplemental nominations beyond this point.)

Total purses for this year's 22nd edition of Maryland Million Day, on October 13 at Laurel Park, will exceed \$1.7 million.

Purses for five of the Maryland Million Day races have been increased for 2007—the Classic to \$300,000; Ladies and Turf to \$200,000; and Lassie and Nursery to \$150,000.

In addition, the Maryland Million will offer purse premiums on open stakes during the remainder of the season and a restricted stakes on the day of the Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash-G1.

To be eligible for Maryland Million nomination, a horse must be sired in this state, and the sire must also be nominated to the program. It is not necessary for the horse to be a Maryland-bred.

For more information call the Maryland Million office at (410) 252-2100.

Racing Commission settles in new site

The Maryland Racing Commission's main office has relocated to Towson.

Its address is 300 East Towsontown Boulevard, Towson, Md. 21286. Phone number is (410) 853-1670.

Cutbacks to begin this summer: purses will be trimmed by \$2,000 per race

When racing resumes at Laurel in August, major cutbacks will begin to appear in Maryland's racing program.

To eliminate a projected \$3 million shortfall in the Purse Account, the purse for every race will be cut by \$2,000, and the fall stakes schedule will be dismantled.

The revised program—which leaves the schedule of live racing days intact for the remainder of 2007—was the outcome of a June 7 meeting between the MTHA and Maryland Jockey Club President Lou Raffetto.

Representing the MTHA was the Negotiating Committee, consisting of Chairman Dale Capuano and members John Alecci, Jerry Robb and Katy Voss, along with MTHA President Richard Hoffberger.

Mr. Raffetto agreed with the suggestion of the Negotiating Committee to re-

duce the purse schedule. That, in combination with a significant reduction in the stakes schedule, generated the funds needed to offset the projected purse overpayment in 2007. Mr. Raffetto agreed not to cut days this year, but he said there appears to be "no choice but to cut days" in 2008 unless additional funding is secured.

The revised program calls for the two-tiered purse schedule—under which turf races carry lower purses than dirt races—to remain. However, when a race is moved from turf to dirt, the purse for that race will be raised to the higher level only if the race is run with eight or more betting interests.

Details of the stakes program are still to be determined by Mr. Raffetto and Racing Secretary Georganne Hale.

See *Cutbacks*, page 2

Terry Saxon, former Racing Commission member, dies at age 60



Terry H. Saxon, an Eastern Shore businessman who served on the Maryland Racing Commission from 1998 to 2006, died on June 3 at the age of 60. His death was attributed to

pulmonary fibrosis. Mr. Saxon, a graduate of Emory University and George Washington Univer-

sity, worked in the health care field for more than 40 years and most recently owned and operated the Ocean City Golf Academy and Driving Range in Berlin, Md.

"While Terry was appointed to the Commission as an individual with knowledge of the harness industry, he took it as his mission to serve the best interests of the racing industry as a whole," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "He was respectful and fair, and consistently sought to find a middle ground on divisive issues."



Maryland schedule during the summer break

MTHA

The MTHA will continue to provide its full range of services to members. The MTHA's race track office is open from Monday through Friday, at Laurel. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon.

Racing Office

The Racing Office is closed. Entries for Colonial Downs are not being taken in Maryland. Foal certificates that were not picked up before the close of the Pimlico meet have been shipped to Colonial Downs.

Licensing Office

The Maryland Racing Commission Licensing Office is closed.

Owners and trainers may follow their customary procedure, submitting applications to the Commission's main office in Towson. For more information call the Commission at (410) 853-1670.

Horsemen's Bookkeeper

The Horsemen's Bookkeeper's office is open at Laurel Park, Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Payroll checks

Horsemen's payroll checks will only be approved Mondays through Fridays, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Gate schooling

The starting gate is available for schooling on the following days: Bowie—Tuesdays and Fridays, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.; Laurel—Wednesdays and Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.; Pimlico—Mondays and Thursdays, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Turf courses

The Pimlico and Laurel turf courses are closed.

Medication issues

Questions regarding Lasix or other medications should be directed to the Maryland Racing Commission at (410) 853-1670.

Shuttle service to Colonial Downs

The Grand National van company will ship horses from Bowie, Laurel and Pimlico to Colonial Downs on race days. To use this service, contact Greg Harvey (443) 336-1766.

**Colonial Downs Racing Office: (877) 482-7223;
(804) 966-7223; fax (804) 966-5110.**

Free horse van shuttle service: Greg Harvey (443) 336-1766.

Cutbacks, from page 1

Laurel's fall marquee event, the Grade 1 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash, is expected to remain on the schedule, along with a limited number of \$50,000 stakes. "No stakes is safe [from being cancelled or discontinued]," said Mr. Raffetto. The Dash, worth \$300,000 in 2006, must maintain a purse level of at least \$250,000 in order to retain its Grade 1 status.

The MTHA and track management worked in close cooperation on the revised program, and have agreed to continue to seek viable alternatives in the months ahead.

"Obviously, we are all distressed that it had to come to this. But without some form of expanded revenue—either from slots or in the form of a purse enhancement—the Purse Account could not support the existing program," Mr. Hoffberger said. "The MTHA appreciates the accommodations made by Mr. Raffetto."

"Everything that we talked about during the 2007 legislative session has come to fruition," said Mr. Raffetto. "We have a Purse Account shortfall that we'll be continuing to deal with going into 2008. We've shifted into survival mode."

Scholarship, from page 4

Lark's ambition made her a strong candidate for the Backstretch Scholarship Program, which provides financial aid to backstretch workers enrolled in college.

She became one of the program's all-time leading recipients, with a total of \$19,000. Scholarships were awarded to her as follows: \$4,000 in 1999; \$6,000 in 2000; \$5,000 in 2001; \$4,000 in 2003.

It wasn't just the money that helped to propel Lark throughout college and vet school, she explained. "The support network was a big motivator—knowing that all those people who donated money to the scholarship program were pushing for you, and encouraging you."

Dr. Carroll graduated from the University of Maryland with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, while majoring in biological sciences. She then enrolled in the Ohio State University Veterinary School, earning her degree in 2006.

For the past year, she worked as an intern at Rood & Riddle, with Dr. Scott W. Pierce as her mentor. Dr. Carroll's practice is focused on conformation and lameness issues in racing age horses and sales horses.

"For the time being I'm in Kentucky," she said. "But I'm always talking about coming back to Maryland."



Brief overview of the scholarship program

• **Sponsors:** The scholarship program is supported by various industry groups and individuals, along with the Maryland Racing Media Association (MRMA), which administers it. The MTHA and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund were instrumental in expanding the program in the mid-1990s, and have continued to provide a foundation of support.

• **Total awards:** In the years 2004 through 2006, a total of \$100,000 was distributed. In 2006, a record number of recipients—15—were awarded a total of \$32,750.

• **Who's eligible:** Individuals working on the backstretch, as well as at farms and training centers within Maryland, and enrolled in college or graduate school.

• **How to apply:** Applications for the 2007 scholarships will be available this month. For more information call MRMA President David Richardson at (410) 239-7022.

Thoughts, from page 4

soccer, as well as poker tournaments and outings to baseball games. A backstretch appreciation day cookout is held every fall.

The recreation program also distributes reading material and clothing on a routine basis.

In its early years, the MTHA's recreation program was directed by the late Bob Griffith, a man of exceptional energy, knowledge and compassion who is memorialized by the softball field at Laurel. I was fortunate to serve often as a referee back when Bob was organizing the games, and following his death in February 1998, it was my privilege to succeed him as director.

I'd like to say that the recreation program has been all fun and games since I've been doing this job—and in many ways it has. The vast majority of people who participate in the program are enthusiastic, grateful and considerate toward others.

IN MEMORIAM

Michael J. O'Brien, a lifelong horseman who owned, trained and bred horses in Maryland for many years, died May 12 at age 68. His best horses included stakes-placed Amber Comet, bred in partnership with his sister, Mary Frances Hughes. Mr. O'Brien had owned Inland Title Company in Upper Marlboro.

Ralph T. (Short Man) Parker, 82, who worked as a groom throughout his life until retiring in 2000, died May 18. He launched his career with trainer H.G. Bedwell and was last employed by King T. Leatherbury.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

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The Horsemen's Newsletter
reports on issues and events of interest
to owners and trainers in Maryland.
Your suggestions are welcome.

(516) 328-1800. Aug. 14

Unfortunately, however, a small number of people seem bent on destroying the equipment that the MTHA generously provides.

The backboard and hoop on the basketball court at Laurel were recently damaged. . . . the pool table at Bowie has required numerous repairs. . . . television sets in the Bowie kitchen take a constant beating. . . . snack vending machines at Pimlico are all but impossible to maintain in working order.

And the list goes on.
I ask these vandals to think about what they're doing, and stop.

The MTHA, by developing and continuing this program, has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the people on the backstretch. But respect and appreciation must go both ways in order for this program to continue to serve everyone to the best of its ability.

*/Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director*

Recreation report

*From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director
(410) 802-5798*

Softball

Softball is set to begin June 18 at Laurel. More players and teams are needed.

Golf

The MTHA's next golf outing will be held on August 13 at Ft. Meade.

Orioles tickets

The MTHA provided 30 tickets to the June 13 Orioles game vs. the Washington Nationals. Ticket winners were Harley Foote, John Poe, J.D. Brown, Paul Plymire, Carmen Reyes, Mark Dil-

low, Gary Capuano, Tony Aguirre, Gilberto Delgado, Mike Ford, Matt Dillow, Pedro Toledo, Randy Bright and Howard Wolfendale.

Latest winners in the continuing series of drawings for Orioles tickets are Wayne Fastnaught, Howard Wolfendale, John Brady and Matt Dillow.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: J.D. Brown, Kathy Delp, Mike Gathagan, Gene Gilhooly, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Patricia Kelly, Arlene and Herb Kushner, Rob Leibner, Karen Przybyla and Jerry Trone.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Colonial Downs . . . June 15 through Aug. 7
Laurel . . . Aug. 10 through Aug. 23;
Sept. 5 through Dec. 31
Timonium . . . Aug. 24 through Sept. 3

MARYLAND MILLION DAY OCT. 13 AT LAUREL

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM

(410) 392-5555

**Two-Year-Olds in Training
and Horses of Racing Age** . . . June 26
Eastern Fall Yearlings . . . Oct. 1-3
Entries close July 9
December Mixed . . . Dec. 2, 3

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July Yearlings,
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. . . . July 16, 17

**Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected
Yearlings**, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800. Aug. 6, 7

**Fasig-Tipton New York
Preferred Yearlings**, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800. Aug. 10, 11

**Fasig-Tipton New York
Open Yearlings**, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800. Aug. 14

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected/Open Yearlings

Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. Aug. 20-24

Keeneland September Yearlings,
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. . . . Sept. 10-24

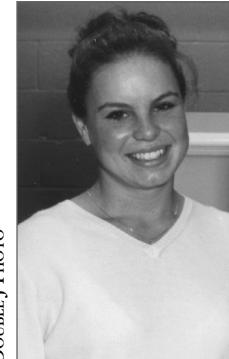
**Charles Town Thoroughbred Horse
Sales Fall Mixed**, Charles Town, W.Va.
(304) 725-8026. Sept. 24

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company
Fall Mixed**,
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. Oct. 8-12

**New York Breeders' Sales Company
Fall Mixed**, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(518) 587-1555. Oct. 14

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearlings,
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. . . . Oct. 22-24

**Check the
MTHA Web site
for notice
of the next
Board Meeting.
Go to www.mdhorsemen.com
and click on Calendar.**



DOUBLE J PHOTO

MRMA Scholarship winner Lark Carroll is now a practicing equine veterinarian

Larkspur S. (Lark) Carroll worked hard to launch her career as an equine veterinarian. But without the MRMA Scholarship Program, her path would have been much more difficult.

"The scholarship program meant the world to me," said Dr. Carroll, who this month became an associate at Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Ky.

Dr. Carroll, 27, grew up on a farm in North East, Md. Her fa-

ther, Del Carroll, was a well-established trainer who died in a training accident at Keeneland in 1982. Her mother, Klobia (Klo) Carroll, is a practicing veterinarian who also owns and breeds horses.

Because her family farm represented a sizable financial asset, Lark didn't qualify for aid when she enrolled in the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1998. But she had little funds available to pay for college.

Determined to acquire an education, Lark put herself on a demanding schedule, working as an exercise rider seven days a week at Laurel throughout her college years. She was employed by several trainers before becoming a member of Tony Dutrow's crew. On weekends she served as a veterinary assistant for the Maryland Veterinary Group.

See **Scholarship**, page 2



MTHA
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Baltimore, Maryland 21207

June 2007

Thoughts and comment

Backstretch employees have been called the "backbone" of the industry—and with good reason. Without their efforts, day in and day out, racing could not go on.

Ask anyone about the difficulties of living on the backstretch, however, and you're not likely to hear people talk about the hard work.

It's the down time, when the horses are cooled out and put away and the feeding is done, that can be hardest to deal with. Boredom and loneliness are all too familiar for many.

That's why the MTHA has always put

a strong focus on its year-round backstretch recreation program.

When the MTHA was founded 20 years ago, its goal was to attempt to provide any and all types of recreational programs that might be desirable, or beneficial, for backstretch employees at Bowie, Laurel and Pimlico.

Throughout the years, the program has been refined and modified. It now offers, on a regular basis, a number of sports including basketball, softball, bowling, golf, pool tournaments and

See **Thoughts**, page 3

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