



## Health Fairs will be offered in June— free of charge—to all backstretch workers

Monday, June 6: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Bowie Conference Room

Monday, June 13: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Laurel Recreation Room

Scheduled services include cholesterol, prostate and blood pressure screenings, body fat composition analysis, carbon monoxide and skin cancer testing, seated massage therapy and more. Note: A 12-hour fast is required for cholesterol tests.

Everyone employed on the backstretch—assistant trainers, exercise persons, grooms, hotwalkers, stable foremen, trainers, etc.—is encouraged to participate.

All results are confidential and will be sent to the address that you provide.

Health Fairs are sponsored by the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund



**MTHA**  
6314 Windsor Mill Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

**May 2011**

## Thoughts and comment

Are you too busy to have your cholesterol checked? Or is the service too expensive? That could be true if your only choice is a crowded lab, or you lack health insurance.

It most definitely is not true for anyone licensed to work on the backstretch in Maryland.

Health Fairs, sponsored in part by the MTHA (see notice at the top of this page), offer free screening services to all Maryland backstretch employees.

This is in addition to the Backstretch Health Center at Laurel Park, staffed two mornings each week by Harry M. Harris,

M.D. The Health Center is open from 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays and Saturdays, in the track kitchen building.

Both the Health Fairs and Center have improved the quality of life, and also saved the lives, of many people while helping to provide the kind of healthy work force that is so vital to the industry.

*Richard J. Meyer, MTHA Director and Health and Welfare Committee Chairman; Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund President.*

### MTHA Board of Directors

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# The Horsemen's Newsletter

**May 2011**

**Volume 21 • Number 4**

## Important Announcement for all Members: MTHA Election Notice

The MTHA's 2011 election for the Board of Directors is proceeding on schedule.

Appointed to the Nominating Committee were Richard J. Meyer (chairman), Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Timothy L. Keefe and Lawrence E. Murray.

The Nominating Committee is developing a slate of nominees to be presented at the MTHA's annual meeting to be held on June 15 in the Director's Room (Sky Suite) at Laurel Park, beginning at 5:30 p.m. All interested MTHA members should attend this meeting.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the June 15 meeting. These nominations require verbal endorsement from at least four members and written consent from the nominee. Nominations will also be accepted by presentation of a petition bearing the signatures of at least five members and the nominee.

Ballots and biographical information on all the nominees will be mailed to all MTHA members in July. Deadline for return will be in August. Results will be announced in August.

If you have any questions regarding this election, please call the MTHA office at (410) 265-6842.

## Race-day medication looms as major national issue

Medication has come to the forefront of a national debate, with The Jockey Club calling for a five-year plan to eliminate the only remaining race-day medications (Lasix and adjunct bleeder medications).

The bill also requires that the Thoroughbred racing industry submit by December 1 a business plan that would stimulate racing to survive and thrive without slots.

The Racing Medication and Testing Consortium will join the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and Amer-

ican Association of Equine Practitioners in organizing an international summit on June 13 and 14 in New York City to address race-day medication.

The Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, on behalf of its member organizations, which include the MTHA, has stated its opposition to these proposed changes.



## Maryland's summer schedule

Racing Office personnel will be available at Pimlico on Monday, May 23, and Tuesday, May 24, for trainers to pick up their papers and colors. Foal certificates and silks will not be shipped to Colonial Downs. The Racing Office and jockeys' room will be closed during the summer.

Pimlico will close on Saturday, May 28. Trainers must have all of their horses and equipment off the grounds on that day.

### MTHA

The MTHA Office at Laurel will be open Mondays through Fridays, from 9 a.m. to noon, starting May 23.

### Laurel turf course

The turf course at Laurel will be closed during the Colonial meet.

### Stall issues

Bowie—Contact Jerry Burdick (301) 802-9440.

Laurel—Contact Terry Overmier (443) 324-6646 or Charlie Hall (301) 674-5108.

### Stable area issues

Bowie—Contact Victor (Blue) Marshall (240) 876-6414.

Laurel—Contact Tony Edwards (443) 250-9872.

### Race track issues

Contact David Whitman (443) 250-9870.

### Check cashing at Laurel

Checks will be approved Mondays through Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. only. Limit for check cashing is \$2,000. You must present your MRC license in order to cash a check.

## The Jockey Club launches "Thoroughbred Connect"

The Jockey Club has launched Thoroughbred Connect™, a free online service designed to assist with placement of Thoroughbreds at the end of their racing or breeding careers.

A component of The Jockey Club's Interactive Registration™, Thoroughbred Connect enables Registry customers to express their willingness to be contacted by the possessor of a horse in the event the horse is in need of placement. Those interested in providing assistance or aftercare have the ability to attach their name and contact information to the electronic records of Thoroughbreds within The Jockey Club's database using Thoroughbred Connect.

Similarly, a person who is seeking placement for a Thoroughbred in his possession can log into Thoroughbred Connect and request the contact information attached to the horse. The possessor of the horse may then contact that prospective owner directly to perform due diligence and discuss potential arrangements to transfer the horse. To access this service, go to [www.thoroughbredconnect.com](http://www.thoroughbredconnect.com).



## Anne Arundel slots site off the table until 2012

After promising to have a temporary casino up and running at the Arundel Mills mall site by the end of 2011—a prospect that appealed to many voters in last November's referendum—the casino developer has revised those projections.

The Cordish Co. has announced that it will open its casino in stages, beginning next June with 2,750 machines. Cordish plans to have the entire 4,750-machine project completed by October 2012.

The prolonged schedule will cost the racing industry, as well as the state, many millions in additional slots revenue.

Rick Abbruzzese, a spokesman for Gov. Martin O'Malley, told The Baltimore Sun that officials are "still working to determine the broader effects of the delay."

As the Sun noted: "While Arundel slots will be delayed, Baltimore City can move forward in its own lengthy battle to open a slots casino. A company that had been rejected in a bid to develop slots in Baltimore dropped a legal challenge, clearing the way for the city to seek a new developer for a 17-acre site south of the stadiums."

### Md.-bred Safely Kept named to Hall of Fame

Safely Kept, the Maryland-bred filly who won the Eclipse Award as the nation's champion sprinter in 1989 and captured the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Sprint the following year, has been selected for the racing Hall of Fame.

Bred by David and JoAnn Hayden, Safely Kept launched her career for the Haydens and trainer Carlos Garcia before being sold to Jayeff B Stable and Richard Santulli and sent to trainer Alan Goldberg.

A foal of 1986, by Horatius—Safely Home, by Winning Hit, she raced for four years, won 24 of 31 starts and amassed \$2,194,206.

Induction will take place in August in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

## Clothing distribution center opens at Bowie

Bowie now has its own clothing distribution center.

Clothes are available to all backstretch workers at no cost, in a range of sizes and styles.

Hours are 10 a.m. to noon, Mondays through Thursdays, in the Bowie track kitchen building.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Nancy Alberts**, the lifelong Maryland horsewoman who gained national fame with 2002 Preakness runner-up Magic Weisner, died on May 3. She was 65.

Ms. Alberts bred, owned, trained and served as the exercise rider for Magic Weisner, who retired as a Grade 2 winner of \$888,830.

The MTHA honored Ms. Alberts as outstanding Maryland trainer of 2002.

**Norman L. Hoff**, who was involved in the industry in many different capacities, died on April 23 at the age of 74. An owner, trainer, farrier, and highly regarded free-lance exercise rider, Mr. Hoff was also a U.S. Army veteran.

**George F. Leaf, II**, 51, a lifelong backstretch employee, died on April 24, Easter Sunday. His most recent employer was Rodney Jenkins, for whom he served as a groom for many years.

The next drawing will be held at Lau-

## Committee bulletins

### Bowie

Backstretch co-chairman Linda Gaudet reported:

- The television, equipped with a racing channel, is now up and running in the track kitchen.

Special thanks to Dennis Smoter and Scott Lishia for making this happen.

- A tree-planting ceremony was held on April 25 in memory of Jamie "Stick-

man" Cornwell, the former Maryland jockey who died on February 19 following an extended illness.

### Pimlico

Backstretch chairman Bill Fitzgibbons reminds trainers that Pimlico will close on May 28. Horsemen and equipment must be removed from the grounds on that day.

## Recreation report

From Dan Mangum,  
MTHA Recreation Director.

### Orioles night

The MTHA is sponsoring a night with the Orioles vs. the St. Louis Cardinals on Thursday, June 30. Twenty-five free tickets will be distributed by a drawing at Laurel on June 25.

All may sign up at the kitchens or call Dan Mangum at (410) 802-5798.

### Orioles ticket drawings

The winners of the first Oriole ticket drawings were as follows: Kenny Tucker (April 22 game vs. the Yankees); Bill Poteet (May 11 game vs. the Seattle Mariners; Ron Sweeney (May 24 game vs. the Kansas City Royals).

The next drawing will be held at Lau-

rel on July 16 at noon.

Continue to sign up at the track kitchens or call Dan Mangum at (410) 802-5798.

### Baysox tickets

Free tickets to Baysox games are going fast.

Continue to sign up at the track kitchens or call Dan Mangum at (410) 802-5798; we hope that everyone who signs up can attend a game.

### Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Jack Adamecz, Tom Donlon, Gene Gilhooly, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, and Kenny Tucker.

## Horsemen's calendar

### RACING

**Timonium** ..... Aug. 26 through Sept. 5  
**Laurel Park** ..... Sept. 10 through Dec. 17

### MARYLAND MILLION DAY OCT. 1, LAUREL PARK

**FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS  
AT TIMONIUM** (410) 392-5555  
**Eastern Fall Yearlings** ..... Oct. 4, 5  
**December Mixed** ..... Dec. 5

### OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company  
Two-Year-Olds and Horses of Racing Age**  
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154... June 21, 22

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July  
Selected Yearlings** Lexington, Ky.  
(859) 255-1555..... July 12, 13

**Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected  
Yearlings** Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
(516) 328-1800..... Aug. 8, 9

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company  
Selected/Open Yearlings**  
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154... Aug. 23-25

**Keeneland September Yearlings**  
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412.. Sept. 11-24

### New York Breeders Sales

**Company Fall Breeding Stock**  
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
(518) 587-1555 ..... Oct. 10

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company  
Fall Mixed**  
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154... Oct. 18-21

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearlings**  
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555... Oct. 24-26

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Selected Fall Mixed**  
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555... Nov. 6, 7

**Keeneland November Breeding Stock**  
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412... Nov. 6-19

### MTHA

## ANNUAL MEETING

**Date:** June 15  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Laurel Park,  
Director's Room (Sky Suite)  
**Open To All Members**