



The Horsemen's Newsletter

March 2012

Vol. 22 • Number 3

Prominent Owner/Breeder Sondra Bender Passes

The Maryland racing community lost one of its most prominent members when owner and breeder Sondra Bender passed away after a battle with uterine cancer. She was 78.

A resident of Bethesda, Sondra and her husband Howard owned Glade Valley Farm in Frederick.

"I considered her the first lady of Maryland racing," said Larry Murray, who has trained for Bender since 1988 and is the farm manager at Glade Valley.

The Benders owned two horses who competed in Triple Crown races. Southern Appeal finished 13th in the 1986 Kentucky Derby, while Foufa's Warrior was seventh in the 2003 Preakness Stakes.

Bender is all over the Maryland Million record books. She is tied atop the owner rankings with five victories and has bred four winners.

La Reine's Terms had two of those Maryland Million scores and was the stable's most successful runner. The son of Private Terms, who was bred by Bender in 1995, won 11 stakes races including five in 2002 on five different turf courses. La Reine's Terms retired with \$804,591 in earnings after a score in the 2005 Maryland Million Turf at the age of 10.



Dale Capuano Gets 3,000th Career Win

Twelve days after Todd Pletcher became the 26th trainer in North America to win 3,000 races, Maryland mainstay Dale Capuano joined the elite group with a victory by Father Mudd (above) at Laurel Park.

"I was pretty proud when I won our first race so when you get to 3,000 it's pretty remarkable," Capuano said. "It's just been a pretty good run. You know we've had a lot of help, great clients, great barn people who work for us, a team effort. I'm just the leader."

The 49-year-old joins a club that includes other Maryland regulars King Leatherbury, Scott Lake, Buddy Delp and Dick Dutrow.

"Racing against most of those guys, day in and day out, just makes you better," added Capuano. "The business has changed quite a bit since the mid-90s and early 2000s. We're trying to change with the times and things are tougher now, but we're going to keep rolling along. The economy is going down and most of the tracks race less days than they used to back then. We're based here and we just don't have the days we had 10 or 15 years ago and that really is a difference to an outfit like mine."

CAPUANO'S CAREER:

- Finished in the top three in Maryland for 16 consecutive years (1991-2006)
- Leading trainer in Maryland eight times (1991, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004)
- Has 31 training titles at the major Maryland tracks (Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park) on his resume
- Best year was 2001 when he was the fourth leading trainer in the country with 235 wins and earned a career-best \$4.4 million
- Heros Reward was named Maryland-based Horse of the Year in 2007 and 2008, winning seven stakes and earning millionaire status. Victories included the G2 Nearctic Stakes and a pair of G3 turf sprints
- Won his first graded race when Prized Stamp won the G2 Barbara Fritchie Handicap in 2001 at odds of 17-1
- Saddled Wind Splitter to an 11th place finish in the 1989 Kentucky Derby
- Has nine Maryland Million victories (tied with King Leatherbury atop the standings), including a victory in the 2006 Classic with Due



News Clips

Pennsylvania Governor Proposes Cutting Casino Subsidy To Horsemen

A budget prepared by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett has proposed that the state use \$72 million in casino subsidies to the racing industry in each of the next three years to pay for agriculture projects.

The proposal would reduce the amount of money that annually goes to the racing industry in the Keystone State by about 25 percent.

In the last complete fiscal year, horsemen and breeders in Pennsylvania received \$275 million in purse subsidies and awards.

Since casinos were legalized in 2004, the racing industry in PA has received nearly \$1 billion in subsidies from casinos.

Totally Thoroughbred Horse Show To Be Held At Pimlico

Showcase your Thoroughbred's skills as a show hunter for a chance to win cash prizes.

The Maryland Jockey Club and Adena Springs Retirement Program have teamed up to offer the Totally Thoroughbred Horse Show in the track infield at Pimlico on July 14 at 1 p.m. (rain date July 15).

Entry fee is \$15 per class with an optional stall rental fee of \$20.

All proceeds of the show will benefit various retired Thoroughbred aftercare programs.

The hunter show, exclusively for Thoroughbreds, will offer seven classes, from lead-line up through 3-foot jump courses. Cash prizes will range from \$50 to \$1,000 and there will be a perpetual trophy offered on the day.

The MTHA board of directors approved donating \$4,275 to cover the cost of the show's awards as a show of its commitment to supporting retired Thoroughbreds.

For more information visit pimlico.com or contact Georganne Hale at (443) 506-6916.



Recreation Report

*From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director*

Orioles/Bay Sox Tickets

Drawings will be held for Orioles and Bowie Bay Sox tickets distributed to backstretch employees, compliments of the MTHA. Sign up in the track kitchens. The first drawing will be held in the Bowie recreation area in early April.

Soccer

We are planning a soccer league or pick-up games at Bowie beginning in early May, and we need to know how many will participate. If interested, please call Dan Mangum at (410) 802-5798 or sign up in the track kitchens.

Volleyball

Sign up is underway for a volleyball tournament at Bowie and/or Laurel. Information is posted in the track kitchens, or call Dan Mangum at (410) 802-5798.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch or made a monetary contribution: James Boyce, Gene Gilhooly, Arnold and Sylvia Heft, Herb and Miriam Mittenthal, Carl Morgenstern, Kathryn Size and John Williamson.



Reminders

Backstretch Health Center

Dr. Harry M. Harris, medical director, sees visitors at the center located in the track kitchen building at Laurel Park on a first-come, first-served basis Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Care is FREE OF CHARGE to backstretch workers and their families.

The center is a joint project of the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund and the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.

Free Tax Assistance

The Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund is providing FREE HELP preparing backstretch worker's EZ Form tax returns.

Call Bill Borchardt at (301) 776-0404 for more information.

Injured Jockeys

Jockeys injured during a race at Laurel Park or Pimlico are reminded to contact Diana Pinones first at (301) 470-5464 for help starting a Worker's Compensation claim.

If a jockey's injury is non-race related, please contact your employer at the time of the accident for Worker's Compensation insurance information.

Training Hours

Starting March 12, Laurel Park and Bowie will start training at 5:30 a.m. instead of 6:00 a.m. and Pimlico's training hours will be 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

No Smoking

Horsemen are reminded that smoking in the barns at Maryland Jockey Club facilities is strictly prohibited. Violations will result in major fines.



Free Easter Breakfast

For Our Dedicated Backstretch Employees

Easter Sunday - April 8, 2012

Laurel, Pimlico & Bowie Track Kitchens

Compliments of Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund



Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – February 23rd at Laurel Park

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President, Richard J. Meyer, Vice President, W. Robert Bailes, Christine E. Bricker, Dale Capuano, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Christopher W. Grove, Michael F. Horning, R. Larry Johnson, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray, Katharine M. Voss. *Members absent:* Howard M. Bender and Arnold A. Heft.

Thoroughbred Horse Show

The Board approved a \$4,275 contribution from the Thoroughbred Purse Account to fund prize money for a Thoroughbred Horse Show to be held in July 2012 at Pimlico. ***Voted unanimously.***

MHBA Relations

The Board authorized the Purse Committee to meet with a similar committee of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association to discuss the 2012 expense sharing agreement as well as other relevant issues between the two groups. ***Voted unanimously.***

Table Games

The Board expressed its support for legislation authorizing table games at Maryland race tracks. ***Voted unanimously.***

Special Meeting

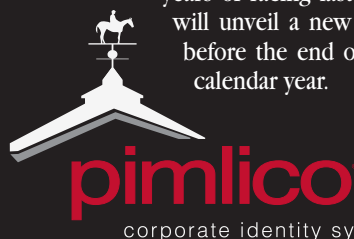
Mr. Johnson presented signatures from members requesting a special meeting for the purpose of amending the Bylaws pursuant to Article XIII, Section 2.

Although no Board action is required if the requisite signatures are presented, a request was made that this special meeting not be conducted during the 2012 Maryland Legislative session and be scheduled no later than 30 days after the legislature adjourns its 2012 session. The Board unanimously agreed.

New Look For Old Hilltop

Maryland Jockey Club released a new logo for Pimlico Race Course comprised of the cupola weather vane, one of the most iconic features at Pimlico.

Laurel Park, which celebrated 100 years of racing last year, will unveil a new logo before the end of the calendar year.



Calendar

Live Racing:

Laurel Park Now-Mar. 24
Pimlico Mar. 30-May 19
Timonium Aug. 24-Sept. 3

Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Auctions:

Two-Year-Olds in Training ... May 21-22
Eastern Fall Yearling Oct. 2-3
December Mixed Dec. 3

Out Of State Auctions:

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected Sale of Two Year Olds In Training
Ocala, FL Mar. 13-14
Keeneland Two-Year-Olds in Training,
Lexington, KY Apr. 9
Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Spring Sale of Two Year Olds In Training
Ocala, KY Apr. 23-26
Ocala Breeders' Sales Company June Two Year Olds & HRA Sale
Ocala, KY Jun. 19-20
Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July Sale,
Lexington, KY Jul. 10-11
Fasig-Tipton New York Saratoga Selected Yearling Sale,
Saratoga Springs, NY Aug. 6-7

The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published monthly by the
Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

6314 Windsor Mill Road,
Baltimore, Md. 21207;
(410) 265-6842; Fax: (410) 265-6841;
E-mail: mdhorsemen@erols.com
Website: www.mdhorsemen.com

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

Ferris Allen Honored For 2,000th Win

Ferris Allen was recently recognized by the Maryland Jockey Club for reaching the 2,000-win plateau. The 60-year-old trainer, who saddled his first winner in 1974, accomplished the milestone when he sent out From Jump Street to victory at Gulfstream Park in December.

"It's terrific to get this accomplished, and as you know it's a team effort," Allen said. "Lots and lots of efforts from individuals go into this. A lot of people don't realize that it takes one employee roughly for every two horses, so if you're winning a hundred races a year just think of all the human effort that goes into that. I've been blessed with great people working for me all along."

A baseball player at William & Mary, Allen led all trainers in wins on the Maryland circuit in 1999 and ranked in the top 10 for 16 consecutive years (1995-2010). His barn has earned more than \$1 million for 15 straight years.

"It's all about standing right here, in the winners' circle," added Allen. "We won only six races combined in '74 and '75 but I remember each one of them like it was yesterday. As you look back it isn't just the stakes horses but there have been special mid-level runners and cheap claimers that hang with you through the years."





Backstretch Pension Plan Registration

Pension Plan Registration for the year ended 2011 will take place at the following times and locations.

Bring your Maryland Racing Commission Badge and W2, 1099, or tax return for 2011.

For more information call the MTHA office at (410) 265-6842.

March 26 through March 30

Bowie Track Kitchen, Office Next Door,
9:30 a.m. to noon

April 2 through April 6

Laurel Track Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



*Attention All Backstretch Employees:
Assistant Trainers, Exercise Riders,
Grooms, Hotwalkers, Stable
Foremen, Trainers, etc.*

April 9 through April 13

Pimlico MTHA Office, 10 a.m. to noon

April 16 through April 20

Bowie Track Kitchen, Office Next
Door, 9:30 a.m. to noon

April 23 through April 27

Laurel Track Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 30 through May 4

Pimlico MTHA Office, 10 a.m. to noon

**Failure to register will result in
the loss of your 2011 benefit**



MTHA

6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

March 2012

WE NEED YOUR HELP



Your Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC is committed to the protection, promotion and improvement of live Thoroughbred horse racing in Maryland.

We rely on your support. Please consider a donation.

Amount of Donation

☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000

Name

Address

Phone Number

City, State, Zip

Please make checks payable to Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC. Mail this form and check to:
MTHA, 6314 Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore, MD 21207. By authority Wayne W. Wright, Treasurer.

MTHA Board of Directors

Richard J. Hoffberger
President

Richard J. Meyer
Vice President

W. Robert Bailes
Howard M. Bender
Christine E. Bricker

Dale Capuano
Linda S. Gaudet
H. Neil Glasser

Christopher W. Grove
Arnold A. Heft

Michael F. Horning
R. Larry Johnson
Timothy L. Keefe

Lawrence E. Murray
Katharine M. Voss