



The Horsemen's Newsletter

December 2013

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Leatherbury, Dilodovico Honored at Christmas Party

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association recognized two of Maryland racing's best on Saturday, December 7th at the renewed MTHA Christmas Party celebration, which made it's return after a three year hiatus.

King Leatherbury's The Jim Stable took home owner of the year honors in 2013, mostly for the accomplishments of Ben's Cat.

A son of Parker's Storm Cat out of the Thirty Eight Paces mare Twofox, Ben's Cat has 24 wins from 37 starts with career earnings of \$1,862,640. This year alone he has earned \$505,350, never finishing worse than third.

Trainer of the year honors for 2013 went to Damon Dilodovico, who does double-duty for audio/visual provider International Sound.

The Bowie-based Dilodovico had a phenomenal 2013, finishing first and third in the Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash with Immortal Eyes and Service for Ten.

Immortal Eyes, an 8-year-old son of Greatness won six of 10 races in 2013 with career earnings over \$1.1-million.

Service for Ten won three of five races in 2013 with two stakes wins for earnings of \$158,150.



MTHA Announces Pact With Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association became a leader in the effort to care for thoroughbreds when it agreed to work with the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance to coordinate activity for retired race horses.

The TAA is designated to accredit aftercare programs and raise and distribute funds among those programs around the country. The MTHA participation with the TAA requires that funds donated by the MTHA are used for horses that have run in Maryland and that the retirement farm also be in Maryland.

The MTHA is contributing 50% of it's available funds to this program.

"By working with a national organization that has developed standards and criteria for retirement farms, we believe that we can help make sure that our money is used with the best programs available. By only contributing a portion of our funds to the national program we have insured we can still support local programs that may not fit into someone else's criteria" said Chris Bricker, MTHA's Board coordinator for the project.

Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue in Chesapeake City and Thoroughbred Placement Resources in Upper Marlboro were among 20 newly accredited programs announced by TAA, bringing the number of accredited programs in the United States and Canada to 23. The 2014 grant process will be made available soon.

Interim TAA director Mike Ziegler, who is also the executive director of the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance, is thrilled

that all of the MTHA funds go directly to accredited organizations within Maryland and the monetary amount will be increased through contributions from other sources in the national program.

"Maryland is the first state doing what it's doing," Ziegler said. "It's an exciting partnership between them and us. It's a lot of work to ensure funds are properly taken care of and go to deserving organizations and that's what we do. Plus, they will get

more back than they put in because of the total amount that is going into the program."

Ziegler said the TAA will distribute \$1 million dollars to programs around the country this year and he expects that total to rise in the future.

James Hastie, who has been hired as the new TAA executive director and is in the process of assuming his duties from Ziegler, said he is thrilled to have the 20 new programs on board.

"Each of these facilities has undergone a rigorous process to ensure that they are providing a uniform level of care for our retired Thoroughbreds," Hastie said in a statement. "We're excited to support the great work they are doing."

Besides Maryland, the TAA also is working with Florida and California. Those two states are raising funds for the Alliance; and Kentucky and New York are about to begin similar programs. The TAA also is supported by funds from 20 stallion farms, The Jockey Club, Keeneland, Fasig-Tipton,



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Barrets in California and OBS in Florida.

In Maryland, the MTHA's thoroughbred retirement program is funded through a voluntary donation of \$6 per starter that most horsemen participate in.

The remaining 50 percent of the MTHA's Retirement Program funds will be distributed by the MTHA Board to local farms that do not participate in the TAA program, and programs such as the All Thoroughbred Horse Show.

"One of the things we liked about the TAA is they're looking at all the rescue organizations, making sure they are on the up and up" continued Bricker. "TAA has the expertise to make sure our funds are properly allocated to reputable facilities. The accreditation program is new, so there aren't a large number of Maryland programs in the TAA yet. We wanted a program that assures us that our money will go to the Maryland organizations that are accredited. The TAA does that. And by keeping some of our money for us to distribute, it gives us capital to support our non-accredited farms and programs while they work on becoming accredited. We felt good about both those aspects."

Both Bricker and Maryland Jockey Club Racing Secretary Georganne Hale, who brought the TAA to the horsemen's attention, said there is a great need for after-care programs in Maryland and all over the country.

"There are lots of folks when they retire horses who don't have a place to rehome them," Bricker said. "I don't live on a farm. I think it's very necessary to have places for our horses to go to be retrained and have time to adapt to a new profession. And I think the thoroughbred is getting a much better reputation because of these programs."

Hale continue by saying: "Hopefully, we're going to get it off the ground here and start helping our horses. We need to take care of our own horses here in Maryland and this new relationship with TAA is a perfect start."

Over \$30,000 has been collected since the program began April 1. In addition, the Maryland Jockey Club has agreed to match the dollars that the MTHA contributes to retired horses.

Third Party Lasix Administration Slated To Begin In January

As part of the recently approved uniform medication program adopted by the Maryland Racing Commission, state officials will begin implementing a program beginning January 1, 2014, that requires Furosemide (otherwise known as Lasix or Salix) to be the only medication authorized for administration on race day. The Furosemide restrictions also require that the administration of the anti-bleeder medication be performed only by third-party veterinarians secured and employed by the Commission. These vets are prohibited from working as private veterinarians or technicians on the race-track or with participating licensees.

The program is currently under way or in the process of being established in no fewer than 13 other states including Colorado, Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

"We've received nothing but positive

feedback from our horsemen regarding the third-party Lasix administration program here in Delaware," commented Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's executive director Bessie Gruwell. "The program has been in place for two years and thus far has been very well received."

State officials have indicated that a contractor to administer the program, which will be on a barn-to-barn basis by no fewer than three state licensed veterinarians, will likely be selected in early December.

Billing of the Lasix shots, estimated to be approximately \$20 each, will be handled through the Horsemen's Bookkeeper.

The Board of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has appointed a task force to work with the Commission to closely monitor the program to assure a smooth transition for horsemen.

Lafferty Named To Racing Commission

Tammy Lafferty, the newest member of the Maryland Racing Commission, has owned and raced Standardbreds for more than 25 years. She hopes to pull from those experiences when dealing with issues facing the racing industry, she says.

Her top concern? Integrity.

"The racing industry—both the Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds—is going down the tubes, from what I see," she says. "I think a lot of that has to do with integrity. At most of the Standardbred tracks the drug usage is posted. When you've got a whole board of it, it really doesn't look good to the fans."

"Plus, you've got horsemen trying to make a living. If somebody cheats and gets away with it, you're taking from the people who race honestly. Some people get in trouble, get a sentence, and the next thing you know it's getting reduced to nothing. Or a trainer gets a positive, and the next thing you know they're transferring the horses into somebody else's name. They may not have their name down on the paperwork, but they're still training. I think we need to get more stringent in the penalties. They aren't doing any good."

Lafferty, 53, knows plenty about enforcement and penalties. She is a senior assistant state's attorney in charge of child-support cases—about 3,800 cases in all. She prose-

cutes people who don't pay, garnishes bank accounts, modifies old orders and establishes new ones.

She graduated in 1982 from the University of Maryland at College Park and in 1987 from the University of Baltimore law school. She worked in private practice for about 10 years before joining the state's attorney's office in 1998. She's based in Prince Frederick in Calvert County and lives about 10 miles away in Huntingtown.



She served a dozen years on the board of the Cloverleaf Standardbred Owner's Association and also served on the CEI board that helped run Rosecroft Raceway. She owns Standardbreds with her husband Jerry, who trained them until his retirement. They currently own three—two are racing, and one who's a yearling.

"We never owned Thoroughbreds, but I love them all," she says. "I grew up in Laurel and went to flat tracks quite a bit. Of course I want to learn more about the Thoroughbred industry, because I think we have common interests. I don't think it should be Standardbreds versus Thoroughbreds. We need to present a united front. In the last couple of years I've seen a little more of that, which I'm glad about."

She says that drug regulations should be

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Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – November 21, 2013

Members present: Richard J. Meyer, president, Dale Capuano, vice-president, Christine E. Bricker, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Christopher W. Grove, Arnold A. Heft, Richard J. Hoffberger, Lawrence E. Murray and Katharine M. Voss.

Members absent: W. Robert Bailes, Howard M. Bender, Michael F. Horning, R. Larry Johnson and Timothy L. Keefe.

NTRA Membership

The Board unanimously approved a three-year membership extension for the National Thoroughbred Racing Association.

Benefit Trust

The Board unanimously authorized up to \$60,000 from the Thoroughbred Purse Account for benevolence through the Benefit Trust for 2014.

Recreation

The Board unanimously authorized up to \$40,000 from the Thoroughbred Purse Account for the Recreation Program for 2014.

Backstretch Pension Plan

The Board unanimously authorized David G. Richardson to become the trustee of the MTHA RETIREMENT PLAN FOR BACKSTRETCH EMPLOYEES and adopted the resolutions to restate the program to become a multiple employer plan to stay in compliance with state and federal laws.

In addition the Board appropriated \$400,000 from the Thoroughbred Purse Account for the 2014 contribution to the Backstretch Employees Pension Plan pending Maryland Racing Commission approval.

Third Party Lasix Administration

The Board unanimously authorized payment from the Thoroughbred Purse Account beginning January 1, 2014, for individual Lasix administrations from horsemen's accounts that have a balance below \$20. In addition, the Board supported the suspension of owners with insufficient funds until such funds are repaid to the Thoroughbred Purse Account.

Jockey Worker's Compensation Insurance

The Board unanimously authorized a contribution of up to \$1.2 million from the Thoroughbred Purse Account to fund the balance of the Jockey Worker's Compensation Insurance premium in 2014 over the amount collected by the Maryland Racing Commission from a \$100 license fee.

Thoroughbred Aftercare

The Board unanimously authorized the allocation of 50% of the total portion of funds allotted to Thoroughbred aftercare collected in 2013 from the Purse Protection & Retirement Program to the *Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance* on the condition that 100% of these funds are earmarked to Maryland-based Thoroughbred retirement facilities.

Trainer Larry Murray To Conduct New Trainer Barn Test



Trainer and MTHA Board Member Larry Murray has volunteered to become Maryland's New Trainer Barn Test administrator, taking the reigns from longtime horsemen Eddie Hairfield who retired from this position in November.

The Barn Test is the second phase of a three-step process required by the Maryland Racing Commission for all prospective trainers before getting licensed for the first time in the state. Step one is obtaining three signed and notarized affidavits by currently licensed trainers attesting to the applicants competency. The final step is a written exam administered by the stewards.

Any prospective trainer who needs more information or to schedule a Barn Test with Mr. Murray, contact the MTHA Racetrack Office directly at 410-902-6844.



Rec Report

From Dan Mangum

Bowling Tournament

The winners of the MTHA Bowling Tournament held at Columbia Lanes were: 1st Place: Edmund Benson with a three game set of 629. 2nd place: Damon Gladden, set of 602. 3rd place: Dion Richards, set of 576.

The next Tournament will be Jan. 24, 2014.

Basketball League

Anyone interested in playing basketball or entering a team in the MTHA sponsored Sunday night League starting in Jan. 2014 at Meade High School, please contact Dan Mangum at 410-802-5798 or sign up in the track kitchens.

Donations

The following generous people made donations: Gene Gilhooley, Art Hunter, Jack Adametz, Harry Losso, and Petra Kappel.

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clear and consistent (states should agree, for instance, on how many days out you can administer clenbuterol). At the same time, she says, there may need to be adjustments between the breeds, taking into account that Standardbreds race once a week, Thoroughbreds once a month. Also, she's a firm believer in finding homes for retired racehorses. All these things, in addition to strict and rigid enforcement of drug regulations, are critical to the future of racing, she says.

"I've seen a lot over the years I've raced," she says. "That experience is one thing I bring to the Commission. Plus, I'm about as fair as they come, I think. At least I always try to be. I just hope that I can make a difference by being on the Commission."

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

DYLAN SMITH

Laurel Backstretch Employee of the Year



Dylan Smith works for Richard "Dickie" Small, and Small can't say enough about her. She started with him six or seven years ago as an exercise rider. She got really good, Small says, but then her hips started bothering her. She started helping him around the barn.

"When I got sick (two years ago)," Small says, "I was in the hospital for a month. When I came back to the barn it was like I'd never left."

Smith had managed the horses as well as the employees.

"You think running a stable is pretty easy, until you try it," Small says. "Well, she's doing the whole thing. She's an absolutely delightful person. I wouldn't be able to keep the stable going if it weren't for her."

JOHN ALLMAN

Bowie Backstretch Employee of the Year



John Allman is a hot walker for Chris Grove. He used to work for Linda Gaudet, and she's the one who nominated him for this award.

"He came on the racetrack with his dad 40 years ago," she says.

John's actually a CPA but his heart isn't in accounting. His passion is actually being a race-tracker. His place of comfort is on the Maryland backstretch and it is his life. He lives on the track and still loves going to the races and gamble. He even works for the racetrack, too, in maintenance, and then drives a tractor at night during the winter.

"He works a long day. But he never misses a day of work. He's in his early 60s, and he's looking forward to retiring. He's earned it. John's worked hard all his life," said Gaudet.



MTHA

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Our dedicated backstretch workers can enjoy a free

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST



Christmas morning at both the Bowie Training Center and Laurel Park track kitchens compliments of the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund and the Maryland Jockey Club.