

Message from the President



**Michael Erskine,
DVM, DABVP**

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season. It is a time to spend with family and friends, a time to give thanks for what we have, and a time to look forward to future possibilities. One possibility that the Maryland Horse Council looks forward to is another chance to create the Maryland Horse Park.

After the decision was made last year to withdraw from consideration the Naval Academy Dairy Farm as the site of the Maryland Horse Park, the future of this project was in question. However, the Maryland Horse Industry Board, the group within the Maryland Department of Agriculture that conceived of this idea, remains committed to this goal. It is expected that the MHIB will request new proposals be submitted for potential locations for the Maryland Horse Park as early as this summer.

The Maryland Horse Council agrees with the MHIB that Maryland needs a horse park to promote the recreational and sport horse industry, to preserve open space, to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for the general public in a multi use facility, and

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2007 Maryland Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Convention

The 92nd Annual Maryland Farm Bureau Convention found us at the Clarion Resort Hotel in Ocean City from December 2-5, 2007. Leave it to farmers to go to Ocean City in December! Ocean City is very calming in the quiet of winter without the hustle and bustle of the summer residents.

It may be a quiet time for the town, but not for those gathered to discuss important issues on agriculture for both the state and national policies for Farm Bureau. During the course of the convention, discussions were held to make recommendations to update or include new policies. This year, there were no new policies to include in the Equine Industry section of the Policies. We did recommend, and the members approved, to retain several current policies.

We had a chance to hear Governor Martin O'Malley address the convention and to tell us that he considered agriculture to be an important asset to the State of Maryland. He also stated that it was important to him for agriculture to be a profitable business for farmers and to strive to continue to understand the complexities of farming in the Chesapeake Bay.

We also heard several speakers address issues concerning misconceptions in agriculture, legislative affairs, and estate planning. These issues are important considerations for the agricultural industry within the state and equally important to the equine industry.

As the population shifts from rural to suburban/urban, we must strive to keep misconceptions about the equine industry from gaining ground. Our speaker, Marsha Purcell of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), addressed this issue at length with the attendees. The Maryland Horse Council has worked hard to keep the truth about our industry in the forefront of legislative activities and the media in our state.

Michael C. Hodes, Esquire gave an address on the estate planning complexities specific to the agriculture industry. Our industry, more so than other industries, must deal with being land rich and trying to continue our traditions within the family with the difficulties of inheritance taxes. It was an interesting discussion and helped attendees to understand there are avenues to pursue to help with this issue.

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President *(continued from page 1)*

to drive economic development through tourism. The MHC intends to support this effort as we have done throughout the project's history.

The process begins as a local issue. Any county or local jurisdiction with an interest in the horse park should prepare a proposal. The more proposals offered, the more likely the MHIB will be able to select an ideal location. Indeed, as a resident of Howard County, I am on its Horse Park Task Force studying the issues of the horse park in order to report to and advise the Howard County Council. I believe Harford, Cecil and Wicomico counties are also considering proposals. And there is room for more.

It is important to thoroughly study the local issues involved in locating the horse park. There are many benefits to be gained. We know this. But there is apprehension and even opposition from some. Much of this comes from lack of information and concern about the unknown. The Horse Park will be a positive step for Maryland and we need to assist in getting accurate and complete information to the public. I believe the more you know about this project, the more you will support this project.

In the end, one proposed site will be selected. I will support that decision and assist in the efforts to create the Maryland Horse Park, no matter where in Maryland it is. I will do this as president of the Maryland Horse Council, and I will do this as a citizen of Maryland.

Michael D. Erskine, DVM, DABVP
Maryland Horse Council President

MHC Trails & Greenways Committee New Co-Chairs for Trails & Greenways

Unfortunately for all Maryland equestrians, Peggy Bree is moving out of state! Peggy has been the backbone of the Trails and Greenways Committee since 2002, taking the committee from essentially a theoretical concept and executing it into a dynamic, living, breathing functioning committee, complete with regular meetings and a vibrant on-line forum. The purpose of the MHC Trails & Greenways Committee was always to provide a networking forum for Maryland vast and varied trail organizations to be able to share information, success stories, and challenges, so that no one had to reinvent the wheel and in order to inspire each other. Peggy gave legs to that purpose. Peggy made it happen.

Thank you, Peggy.

And thank you to **Dr. Judy Tubman** and **Christine Reynolds** for accepting the baton and agreeing to serve as co-chairs of the MHC Trails & Greenways Committee. You are inheriting an active and dynamic committee!

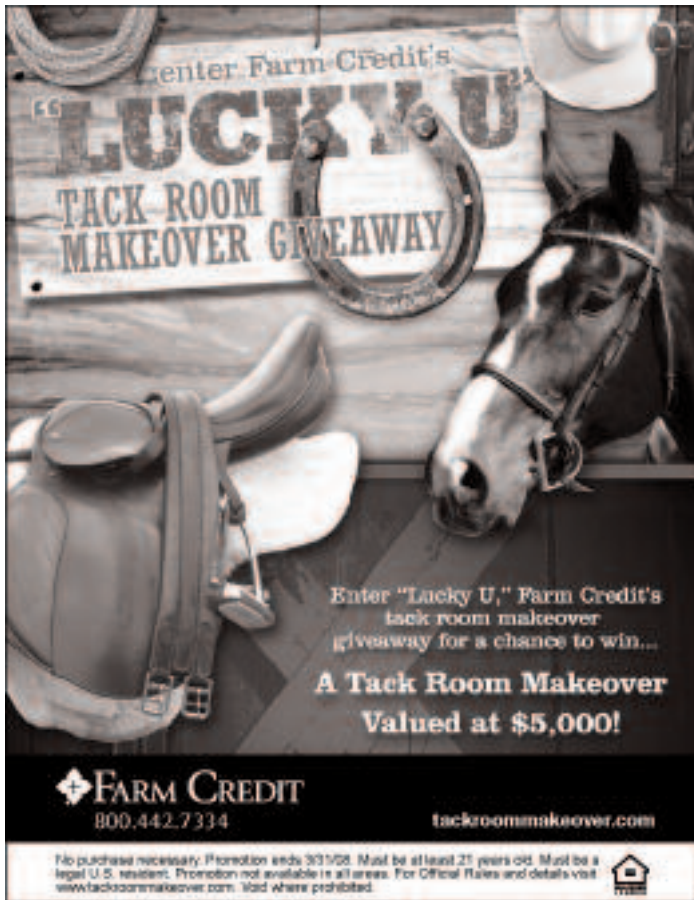
Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Convention

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Presentations from the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Buddy Hance; President of Maryland Farm Bureau W. Michael Phipps; and Dean and Director of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the University of Maryland, Dr. Cheng-I Wei gave us an update on the happenings within the State of Maryland. The final speaker was AFBF Director of Public Affairs, Don Lipton who spoke on the significant findings of a recent farm animal welfare survey. The findings were interesting and insightful.

All in all, it was a very informative and successful convention for Maryland Farm Bureau and your representatives were right there to keep Maryland Horse Council involved in public policy for Maryland.

Pam Saul of Rolling Acres Farm and Kathleen Tabor of the Law Office of Kathleen JP Tabor, LLC were the delegates for Maryland Horse Council.



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2007 Maryland Horseman of the Year Joseph Vanzego



The following is an introductory excerpt from Katherine Rizzo's article featuring the MHC's 2007 Horseman of the Year, Joseph Vanzego. To read the full article, visit the MHC website at www.mdhorsecouncil.org.

The Maryland Horse Council annually recognizes a professional who has had an outstanding and influential career in the Maryland horse industry. The recognition of the individual is designed to inspire young people to combine their love with their chosen careers.

The Horseman or Horsewoman of the year is usually someone in the industry whose work is known but not widely celebrated in the media. This year, the honoree is Joseph Vanzego, a man who brought so much more to his clients than just his farrier services.

From Buffalo Soldier to blacksmith, Joseph Vanzego touched the lives of many in Maryland and beyond. As a skilled blacksmith and caring horseman, Vanzego shod horses at private farms, public stables, and racetracks in Washington D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia for 60 years.

This award is not only to recognize Vanzego's great skills as a farrier, but to highlight how one man can make such a difference in so many lives.

Past Maryland Horsepeople of the Year

1994	Colonel Donald Thackery	2000	Alyne Carrol
1995	Walter Hughes	2001	Dr. Harold Holbrook
1996	Richard Wilcke	2002	D. Michael Smithwick
1997	Jim Steele	2003	Billy Streaker
1998	Jack Vordemberge	2004	Henry Holloway
1999	Hal C.B. Clagett, Jr.	2005	Louise Hollyday
		2006	Joe Aitcheson



**Maryland Horse Council
Executive Committee
2007 – 2008**
www.mdhorsecouncil.org

President:

Michael Erskine, DVM
Phone: 301-829-4977
Fax: 301-829-4953
mikedvm@aol.com

Vice President:

Jane Seigler
Phone: 301-421-9064
Fax: 301-774-7950
jane@reddemeade.com

Treasurer:

Keith Wills
Phone: 410-838-4242
Fax: 410-838-5584
kwills@mafc.com

Secretary:

Crystal Brumme Kimball
Phone: 410-489-7826
Fax: 410-489-7828
secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org

Members-at-Large:

Amy Burk, PhD
Phone: 410-697-3161
Fax: 301-405-8831
amyburk@umd.edu

Cricket Goodall

Phone: 410-252-2100
Fax: 410-560-0503
cricket@marylandthoroughbred.com

Royce Herman

Phone: 410-758-2081
Fax: 410-758-4760
raherman1@verizon.net

Beverly Raymond

Phone: 410-592-8687
Cell: 443-807-1164
(preferred contact)
Fax: 410-841-5999
raymonba@mda.state.md.us

Dorothy Troutman

Phone: 301-627-1327
Fax: 301-627-1327



**Thanks to everyone
who volunteered
at the
Horse World Expo**

**“Everything
You Wanted to
Know About
Employment
Issues, But
Were Afraid to
Ask!”**

**MHC’s Second Annual
Business Seminar**

The 2008 Seminar will focus on employment issues. Plan to join us as we explore such topics as:

- benefits and compensation
- tax consequences of bartering, payment-in-kind, and working student relationships
- workers compensation
- employment contracts
- hiring, firing, equal employment and discrimination issues
- independent contractors
- immigration enforcement issues, and a whole lot more.

See details on page 7

Maryland Horse Council Meeting of the Board of Directors November 13, 2007 • Annapolis, MD

Officers Present:

Mike Erskine
Jane Seigler
Crystal Kimball
Vanessa Finney

President and MD Association of Equine Practitioners
Vice-President and Director-at-Large for Farms
Secretary, Dir-at-Large Business and MD Steeplechase Association
MHC Administrator

Directors Present:

Dr. Amy Burk
Steuart Pittman
Gretchen Mobberley
Vicki O'Hara
Bevely A. Raymond
Darryll Ann Buschling
Mary Anne Steele
Kathy Dobson
Christy Claggett
Cathy Tucker-Slaterback
Dorothy Troutman
Cricket Goodall
Terry Christensen
Guillermo Warley
Priscilla Huffman
Royce Herman

Dir. At Large for Individual Members
Dir. At Large for Farms
Dir. At Large for Farms
Director-at-Large Individuals
Director-at-Large Individuals
Dir. At Large for Youth
Howard County Horse Show Association
League of Maryland Horsemen
Marlborough Hounds
Maryland Combined Training Association
Maryland Equestrian Foundation/ Rosaryville Conservancy
Maryland Horse Breeders Association
Maryland State Quarter Horse Association
New Market Middleton Valley Hounds
Trail Riders of Today
Tuckahoe Equestrian Center

Directors Absent:

Joseph Zentgraf
Sharon Roberts
Kathleen Schwartz
Keith Wills
Laura Schmidt
(Vacant)
Debbie Rollins Frank
Charlie Colgan
Holly Hamilton
Jim McDonald
(Vacant)
Nicky Ratliff
Patty Sasscer
Amanda Brown
Margaret Wilterdink
Tim Streaker
Deloise Noble-Strong
Carrie Everly
Felicia Hilleary
Christine Bricker
David Turner
Gayle Miller
Monica Breland
Mardee Rochelle
Elizabeth Yewell
Ann Corcoran
Susie Webb
Cindy Wood

Carroll County Equestrian Council
Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association
Days End Farm Rescue, Inc.
Director-at-Large - Businesses
Director-at-Large -Businesses
Elkridge Harford Hunt
Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc.
Fair Hill International, Inc.
Goshen Hounds
Graham Equestrian Center, Inc.
Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds
Humane Society of Carroll County
Maryland Association of Wildlife Conservation
Maryland 4-H Foundation
Maryland Dressage Association
Maryland Farriers Association
Maryland Horse Shows Assoc. Rep
Maryland Jockey Club
Maryland Standardbred Breeders Assn.
Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Assoc
Plantation Walking Horses of MD
Potomac Hunt Club
Potomac Valley Dressage Association
Prince George's Equestrian Center, Showplace Arena
The Ranger Foundation, Inc.
Washington International Horse Show
Wicomico Hunt

2 0 0 8 C A L E N D A R
O F E V E N T S

February 25th – MHC Business Seminar

“Everything You Wanted to Know About Employment Issues, But Were Afraid to Ask!”

Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21041

8:30 – 4:00 pm

Registration \$35 per MHC member; \$45 for non-MHC members

Contact: MHC at 410-489-7826

www.mdhorsecouncil.org

March 1st – MHC Equine Health Seminar

“The Twists and Turns of Equine Colic”

Glenwood Community Center
2400 Route 97

Glenwood, MD 217238:00 – 5:00 pm

Registration \$25 per MHC member; \$35 for non-MHC members

Contact: MHC at 410-489-7826

www.mdhorsecouncil.org

May 20th – MHC Quarterly Board Meeting

Prince George’s Equestrian Center
Upper Marlboro, MD

6:00 Meet and Greet Reception

7:00 Business Meeting

August 19th – MHC Quarterly Meeting

Frederick County, MD – venue to be determined

6:00 Meet and Greet Reception

7:00 Business Meeting

September 20th – 2nd Annual MHC Picnic BBQ

Venue: TBD

November 11th – MHC Annual Membership Meeting

Annapolis, MD

6:00 Meet and Greet Reception

7:00 Business Meeting



P.O. Box 233
Lisbon, MD
21765



For the latest News Bulletins, Maryland Bills and Legislation,
Asset Protection, Horse Ownership and more, visit our website at
mdhorsecouncil.org