



# PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter

*We ARE Pennsylvania Racing*

Volume 3 2010

## Racehorse Summit Reports Positive Change in Industry

Racetrack safety, medication, environment and training practices, and Thoroughbred retirement were the four major topics of the Third Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit held June 28 and 29 in Lexington, Kentucky. Keeneland Race Course hosted the event, sponsored by the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and held in the track's Sales Pavilion.

The PTHA's Turning For Home was one of five national racehorse retirement programs invited to speak on aftercare of racehorses. The Summit's format included a day of panel discussions open to the public and ended with workshops to determine action plans and recommendations for each of the four topics. For the first time, the

Keeneland website offered live streaming worldwide of the opening sessions.

Nick Nicholson, President and CEO of Keeneland Association opened the Summit, declaring the theme to be "Momentum."

"We continue to dedicate the Summit to the safety of humans and equines," said Nicholson. "There is no final victory, and wherever we are, we must strive to get better. The next two days will be a catalyst for positive change, and will give us a chance to be re-energized."

### Past Summits Produced Medication Rules

The first two Welfare and Safety of the Horse Summits (WSS) in 2006 and 2008 produced the Equine Injury Database, the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory in Maine, a uniform trainers' test, the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC), and drug testing initiative objectives. Many of the safety recommendations from past Summits have been incorporated into several states' rules of racing, including those in Pennsylvania. The RMTC was the primary driver of the elimination of anabolic steroids, due to the studies done by Dr. Larry Soma from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, and Philadelphia Park and Penn National were

(continued on page 4)



Panel members listen to opening remarks at the Third Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit in Lexington, Kentucky June 28th and 29th.

## New Barns Back On Course with Upgraded Plan; Frontside "On Schedule"

Philadelphia Park management, in compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection, returned to the drawing board to adjust blueprints for the remaining 32 barns that are scheduled to be rebuilt on the track backside.

The new rules had temporarily postponed further renovation of the backstretch area while new blueprints were drawn up to accommodate three wash stalls per barn, as well as the same amount of storage space for feed and tack rooms or offices.

Work crews are back in action, however, having demolished the old Pony Barn A in order to rebuild an additional training barn in its place.

The DEP has notified the track that horsemen will no longer be able to wash their horses out on the pavement, but must use wash stalls, to be built into the new barns, in order to prevent run-off from manure and detergents from infiltrating the streams and waterways in Bensalem.

The first of over 70 covered manure and shavings containers have been delivered between barns into the old three-sided cement manure pits. Emptying straw and shavings bedding into these containers, which will be dumped on a daily basis, will prevent rain causing run off into the drains.

On the frontside, plans are moving along on schedule for the first floor of the grandstand to return to the horsemen by the end of July. The new, brightly-lit area will feature a sports bar, an eating area adjacent to the paddock with waitress service, and plenty of viewing of the racetrack.



The former site of Pony Barn A, where recent construction has begun on Barn 35. Clean-up included the area in the northwest corner of the barn area, which will be used for manure storage. (Below) First floor grandstand renovations have already brightened up the horsemen's area, which will open in July.



## President's Message

It's with tremendous pride that I congratulate our horsemen, and our PTHA for the positive changes that we are seeing, even in these difficult times.



Take a look around our backstretch: horsemen are working closely with management in complying with DEP rules that will keep our local waterways safe. Areas between the barns are clean, the weeds and grass are being kept trimmed and flower and vegetable gardens are decorating the ends of many of the barns. It is small details like these that spread to other areas of our business, too.

Walk inside the rec hall, and notice the new washers and dryers for the use of our stable employees. The PTHA and Ron's Backstretch Cafe have joined together to replace the old machines, and a portion of the money generated will go towards our racehorse retirement program, Turning For Home.

And in speaking of retired horses, although the number of horses being placed into the program still averages four per week, many trainers have mentioned they are stopping on their horses sooner, in order to guarantee them a second chance at careers as a riding horses. That is great news for all involved!

And best news yet for our avid racing fans, as well as our horsemen--by the end of this month the first floor of the grandstand will be big, bright and better--restored for our full use.

Most importantly, through the efforts of our Executive Director and First Vice-President, and their hours spent in Harrisburg since the beginning of the year, our purses are safe once again.

We all look forward to the late summer, always a positive time for Philadelphia Park, as we show the racing world our best face: the Pennsylvania Derby, the Cotillion, Owner's Appreciation Day and PA-Bred Day.

Let's keep up the momentum that has put Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Park in the forefront of the industry...and keep up the good work!

*Donald Reeder*



New straw and shavings containers put in place in July will alleviate much of the run off into neighboring streams and waterways. Management and horsemen have worked together to accomplish a rejuvenation of the Philadelphia Park barn area, while awaiting the new barns

## No Live Racing from August 4 - 29 for Track Maintenance and Renovation

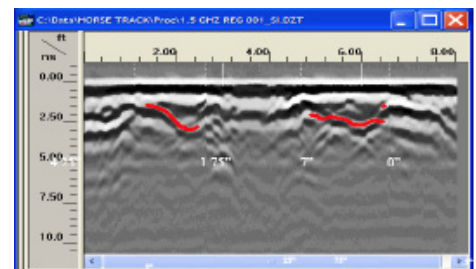
The newest technology was put to use this month in the important task of evaluating the racetrack base, prior to track renovation in August.

The use of GPR technology (Ground Penetrating Radar), which uses radar pulses to image the subsurface, called shooting the grades, can detect irregularities without drilling or pulling back the cushion, thus saving time if repairs need to be made next month. Problems, if any, can be diagnosed before digging.

As soon as the survey company, which was hired by track management, is finished shooting the grade of the track, 1000's of numbers from the GPR will be reported via computer to consultant Joe King, renowned former NYRA racetrack superintendent. King, who most recently designed the state-of-the art Meydan Racecourse in Dubai, will evaluate the numbers, and determine a plan of action for the August shut-down.

"We shoot at 25" intervals around the entire track, and from the rail out at regular intervals in order to produce all of the information needed to evaluate the base of the track," said Philadelphia Park's Track Superintendent, Roy Smith. "It is very time consuming, but is much easier than using string and tools for measurements, which was done in the past."

Training had been cancelled for a few days in mid-July in order to accumulate readings, with no live racing or training from August 4 through the 29th while regular maintenance is completed.



Joe King at Philadelphia Park (l); GPR image sample from a simulated racetrack surface using materials from California tracks. Red areas show unevenness that can be detected 4" to 6" under the surface(r). From Mick Peterson's report on GPR techniques on racetracks.

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## PTHA Leaders Meet with Legislators to Preserve PA's Race Funding

In a major victory for horseracing in Pennsylvania, the legislature maintained our existing share of slots revenue in the recently adopted state budget, funding that is critical keeping our horseracing industry competitive with other states.

PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and First Vice President Sal DeBunda, working with our lobbying firm Wojdak & Associates, invested a great deal of time to meet with House and Senate leadership and individual legislators to educate them about the positive contributions of horseracing to the regional and state economy as well as the number of jobs supported by the industry.



"This is great news for horseracing," said Ballezzi. "Once we laid out the economic impacts of the equine industry, and specifically the horseracing industry, the legislators we spoke with understood why this funding is so critical. The numbers are staggering. From 2001 to 2008, the economic impact of horseracing has increased nearly five-fold, from \$340 million to \$1.5 billion. Jobs increased over that same period from 6,400 to 23,000. These are the benefits of the Horseracing Development Act, which provides a share of slots revenues to the industry."

"Purses are the lifeblood of our industry, they are what allow our industry to create jobs and spur investment in the local economy," said DeBunda.

"People unfamiliar with the details of our industry think of a purse win as going directly into the pocket of the owner. We sat down and broke out in detail how the average purse win is spent on daily training fees, jockeys, veterinarians, trainers, insurance, transportation, blacksmiths and photographers. Many people just don't understand the breadth of the industry and how many different facets of the economy it touches."



DeBunda and Ballezzi said that while they are pleased with this year's victory, declining state revenues and other looming state budget issues will continue to pose challenges for horseracing. Clearly, there remains much work to be done in terms of reaching out, educating and building support from individual members of the legislature, particularly given the current economic situation.

## Philadelphia Park Purse Payments to Last Scheduled for Increase

Beginning late in July, Philadelphia Park will be increasing the purse payment back to last place from \$150 to \$200, PTHA Executive Mike Ballezzi announced at the General Membership meeting on June 19.

"With the increase, owners will have an additional \$10 per start taken out for the fund to promote racing," said Ballezzi. "This will go a long way to help educate our legislators on the impact of racing on the economy of the Commonwealth. We have done our research, and we know that 90% of the purses paid at Philadelphia Park stays in

Pennsylvania where the horses are trained and boarded."

He explained that the \$10 deduction per start would be noted on every owner or partnership's statement from the horseman's bookkeeper, much the same way that \$10 is automatically deducted towards Turning For Home, the PTHA's racehorse retirement program.

"We want to create one voice among our horsemen with the same message: Thoroughbred racing in Pennsylvania creates jobs and income that stay in Pennsylvania."

(Summit continued from page 1)

the first to adopt the model rule banning their use.

Dr. Larry Bramlage of Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington gave an update on the Jockey Club's Thoroughbred Safety Committee, which along with industry groups, including the PTHA, has been effective in improving riding crop design, eliminating or decreasing the height of toe grabs in horse shoes, and adopting RMTC recommendations prohibiting the use of "milkshakes," testing for which is scheduled to begin in Pennsylvania in mid-July.

### Equine Injury Database

The Equine Injury Database was launched in 2008 with 86% of the country's flat racetracks and 100% of the steeplechase meets producing over 19,500 reports of fatal and non-fatal injuries during racing. Dr. Tim Parkin from the University of Glasgow revealed that the data from one full year's worth of reports has shown no difference in the percentage of fatalities between surface types (dirt, synthetic, turf); and no difference in the percentage of fatalities due to weight carried, race distance, or races moved from the turf to dirt.

Interestingly, a turf course listed as "firm" is more likely than a "soft" course to produce fatal injuries, and fillies and mares are half as likely to suffer catastrophic injuries than intact males. Two-year-olds are 35% less likely to suffer fatal injuries than older runners.

Philadelphia Park submits its data on injuries during races and is part of the Equine Injury database.

The goal of the first of four panel discussions, Racetrack Surfaces, was to develop a comprehensive database of surfaces to better assist racetrack maintenance personnel with keeping their respective tracks safe. Speakers included Dr. Mick Peterson, an engineer and Executive Director of the non-profit Racing Surfaces Testing Lab in Orono, Maine; Javier Barajas, former Track Superintendent at Arlington who currently serves in the same position at Meydan in Dubai; Glen Kozak, Director of Racing Surfaces for NYRA; and Dr. Sue Stover, an epidemiologist who studies the biomechanics of the racehorse at the University of California at Davis.



"Racetrack surfaces are not always the problem, but are part of the solution," said Peterson, who developed a biomechanical hoof testing "machine" which analyzes the dynamics between the hoof at a full gallop and the racing surface.

All panelists were in agreement that the biggest risk to horses is inconsistency of track surface, with the amount of moisture the first correlation to risk. A prototype of a "smart" water truck was shown that sensed where there were shady or uneven, damp areas on a dirt track, then internally regulated the amount of water sprayed.

When asked by moderator Ed Bowen, President of the Grayson Jockey Club Research Foundation, if racetracks "made" their surfaces faster for better times on big racing days, both Glen Kozak and Javier Barajas vehemently denied changing grooming of the track to

increase racing times, Kozak even sighting the slow time in the most recent Belmont Stakes. Barajas said that he's been in the business for 34 years and never once thought, "Let's change the track now." The surface should be, he said, "just as perfect for a \$4,000 claimer as for a \$4 million race."

### Racing Equipment and Safety Panel

Human safety, particularly for riders, was addressed by the Racetrack Equipment and Safety panel, and led by Dr. Edward Hall, Director of Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center in Lexington. Hall noted that the healing time of the most common type of injuries to the spinal cord and brain of jockeys is often delayed by nutritional deficiencies in many of the men who try to maintain low weight.

Robert Colton, President of the Delaware Park Jockeys Association, felt strongly that a database of information about horses on the starters list or vet's list should be available to the riders in order for them to protect themselves. He also suggested that a uniform alarm system be present at every track, so no matter where an exercise rider or jockey goes, the sound and lights will be easily interpreted to mean that there is an accident or loose horse on the track. Many tracks have no alarm, or warning lights that can easily be misinterpreted.



Neil Howard, Ken McPeck and Jonathan Sheppard lent their opinions and expertise during the Racetrack Environment and Safe Training Practices panel. McPeck, who has visited training centers all over the world before building his own center, felt that there are too many limits on time and space in the United States. "We are handcuffed to four training hours a day, galloping in one direction on tracks with the same distance and configuration," he said. "In Newmarket, England, you can train up hill, and on 43 miles of different gallops. Trainers need more choices if we are to keep our horses sound."

He also felt strongly about eliminating all medication for graded stakes competition. "There will never be a Triple Crown winner again until Lasix is banned for these races," he said. "It is just too debilitating to breeze and race horses in that close time period for them to perform their best in all three legs of the Classics."

### Veterinarians, Medication and Horsemanship

Panelists addressed the use of veterinarians and medication, and Dr. Rick Arthur, Equine Medical Director from the California Horse Racing Board, said overmedication shows a lack of confidence by the trainer. "Sometimes horsemanship issues are lost," he said. "A groom used to be the 'first line of offense,' could handle the horse and would note any problems first and report to the trainer. The amount of medicating has increased, and I am not sure it's been for the good."

Racetrack environment has a big effect on horses' airway problems, said Dr. Susan Holcombe, who noted that getting a horse out of the barn in the morning when the most dust is in the air will be of great benefit. (continued on page 9)



# Backstretch Views

## PTHA's Independence Day Picnic Attracts Enthusiastic Crowd



The hazy hot weather did not deter the crowd's enthusiasm or appetite at the popular PTHA-sponsored Independence Day Picnic on June 27. Held outside near the rec hall on the Philadelphia Park backstretch, over 150 stable employees and their families enjoyed the abundance of food prepared by Ron's Backstretch Cafe, and dancing and Karaoke to the tunes of DJ Patrick McBride.

Every year the PTHA hosts both picnics and parties for its members, including Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas festivities, as well as the Labor Day Pig Roast.



## Estradas Welcome Mikahela

Trainer Eberd Estrada and his wife, Rossana, recently welcomed baby girl, Mikahela Adela into their family. Born on May 25, Mikahela weighed 6 lbs. and 3 oz., and is the Estrada's third child. She is shown here (right) with "big" sister, 3-year-old Samantha, and also has a brother, Brian Lee, 10.



## Avelino Gomez Memorial Award to Stewart Elliott

Stewart Elliott joins jockeys Ron Turcotte, John Longden, Sandy Hawley, and many other top riders who have been honored at Woodbine in receiving the Avelino Gomez Award. He accepted the trophy on June 13 in the winner's circle, accompanied by his agent, Bobby Martel.

The award is presented to a Canadian-born, Canadian-raised, or regular Canadian rider who has made significant contributions to the sport. "I was really surprised to receive this award," said Elliott. "It is a great honor to be among the many riders who have been chosen."

Elliott, who handled Smarty Jones throughout a prestigious career including a Kentucky Derby and Preakness victory, has won over 4,100 races. He won the 2009 Woodbine Oaks aboard Scott Fairlie's Milwaukee Appeal, and rode her to a second place finish in the Hill N Dale Stakes on June 20 at the Toronto racetrack.

The award was named for Avelino Gomez, considered one of North America's most personable jockeys. Known as "El Perfecto," he unfortunately died of complications after a three horse spill during the 1980 Canadian Oaks.

## PTHA Sponsors Backstretch Soccer League

World Cup Fever has grabbed a hold of soccer fans at Philadelphia Park, and jockey Victor Molina hopes to direct that attention to the PTHA's own soccer league.

For the past few weeks, Molina has been gathering names of backstretch workers who may want to get involved in organized teams.

The PTHA is donating the funding for uniforms, equipment, and referees, while stall manager Gerard Weipert will see to it that the playing field grass is rolled and cut. "My kids play soccer, and a lot of guys I know play, too, so we have enough connections to get some referees from the outside," said Molina. "So far, we have put together 7 teams, and look forward to our first games on July 18."



## Jocson wins Legends Race at Pimlico

Former Philadelphia Park leading apprentice and journeyman rider GWEN JOCSO came out of an 11-year retirement for one race on May 10, winning the Susan G. Komen Legends for the Cure race at Pimlico. Andrea Seefeldt, Mary Russ, Mary Wiley and others joined to compete for breast cancer research in the betting race, which was won by Peace and Honor.

The race which featured many of the nation's retired women jockeys, will be used as the final scene in the documentary movie, JOCK, about the first generation of women race riders.



## LOOK AT THE SAVINGS PTHA MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED!\*



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## VETERINARIAN'S CORNER

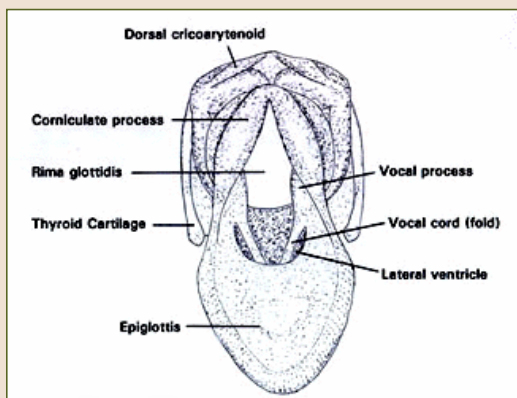
### COMMON BREATHING PROBLEMS IN RACEHORSES

How many times does a trainer report to an owner that his horse has a "breathing problem?" Perhaps the horse is suddenly not finishing his workouts strongly, or is becoming sour about training, or nervous in the paddock and no lameness problem can be detected by the trainer or the veterinarian. "Breathing problem," as vague as it may sound, covers a large variety of problems that can hamper the ability of a racehorse to take in enough air to perform at his best.

Problems occur in either the upper respiratory system, which are often genetic and have to do with conformation; or the lower respiratory system, which manifest themselves as bleeding or infection, and are usually environmental.

Because it is difficult to see what is happening in the respiratory tract of a horse, this "black box" often gets blamed for many of a horse's problems. There are no outward physical signs, and diagnosis is more involved but can be accomplished in one of four methods: fiberoptic endoscopy, video endoscopy, dynamic endoscopy, or ultrasound.

The first two diagnostic methods are used on a horse at rest, or recently exercised. Many of the veterinarians on the backstretch are equipped with a FIBEROPTIC ENDOSCOPE, which is made up of a thin "hose" that enables the veterinarian to view the airways of a horse that is at rest, but once the 'scope is removed, there is no saved image to further evaluate.



A VIDEO ENDOSCOPE will give a much better view of the throat because the endoscopy is performed in a clinic situation, offering a better ability to control the animal as well as offer better resolution, plus it provides a moving picture of how the airway at rest is working, which can be saved digitally and evaluated again.

DYNAMIC EXERCISING ENDOSCOPY is performed as a horse works on a treadmill and is viewed on a television monitor, or with state-of-the art technology that can be used on a galloping horse with a rider on the track carrying a small camera. Viewing the actual breathing apparatus while it is under stress is the most efficient way to diagnose a problem.

ULTRASOUNDING of the throat is used to see if the cartilage is normal, or if the muscle on one side or the other is weak.

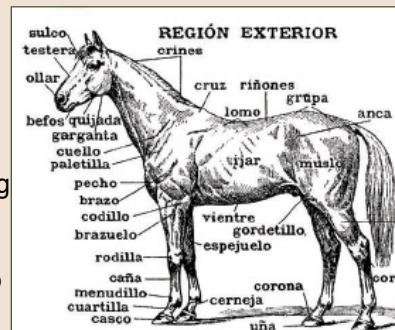
The three most common upper airway conditions are: roaring and chondroitis, which decrease the intake of air, and displacement of the soft palate, which affects the expiration of air. The first two deal with one or both pieces of cartilage (called flaps) on either side of the larynx, which, in a healthy animal, stay open during competition to allow the most air **intake**. When these flaps become paralyzed, the horse is called a "roarer" because of the noise he makes upon intake of breath. A tie back surgery can move the flaps back out of the airway.

Chondroitis, or inflammation of cartilage, causes the flap to become too fat, so that it pushes into the airway. The option is to remove the flap entirely.

"Flipping" or displacement of the soft palate is an expiration obstruction. The palate covers the airway as the horse breathes out, so the horse cannot expire all the air he has taken in. This creates a gurgling noise. Scoping a horse at rest who displaces will show a normal airway. The use of a tongue tie, or special bits like a Serena's Song or Flying "W" can often alleviate the problem.

*This column is meant to help readers understand a bit more about breathing problems in horses. Please confer with a veterinarian for answers to further questions regarding health issues with your horses.*

**Thanks to Dr. Eric Parente for his input and expertise. Dr. Parente is Associate Professor of Surgery at New Bolton Center, whose specialties include laser surgery and laryngeal dysfunction in equines.**



**Want to know what's going on in your horsemen's organization?**

**Check out the PTHA's website at**

**[www.patha.org](http://www.patha.org)**

**for news, events, racing information, HPA store specials and everything that's happening at Philadelphia Park.**



## Secretary of Agriculture Redding Presents Iroquois Awards at PA Breeders Dinner



Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Redding, with Sylmar Farm's Ronald & Elizabeth Houghton, leading breeding fund award recipients. The Houghtons bred both Whistle Pig and Turbo Speed, winners of the 2009 Presidential Affair H. and the Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes, respectively.



PA Horse Racing Commission Chairwoman Dr. Corinne Sweeney and Gregory Fajt, Chairman, Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board look over the program at the Iroquois Awards Banquet held at Hollywood Casino.



Russell Redding, alongside Peter Giangliulo, former President of the PA Breeders Association.

## Sanfratello Elected New President of PA Breeders Association

Brian Sanfratello gave his first speech as President of Pennsylvania Horse Breeders' Association at its 31st Annual Iroquois Awards Dinner on May 28. His words were poignant, however, as he first gave thanks to the breeders themselves, with words that reflected the hard work, hopes and dreams that only a breeder himself could understand.

"Congratulations to you, the breeder, who gets up before dawn, 365 days a year, to feed, clean stalls, soak feet, hose legs, defrost buckets, pull manes, sweep floors, walk colicky horses, fix fencing...and sit long cold nights so that you can deliver the next Secretariat."

Among nodding heads and murmured agreement, he then asked that the audience give themselves a round of applause.

These words could only be spoken by one who's been there!

Brian Sanfratello and his wife, Terry, do everything themselves on the eleven acres they call Briter Farm (short for Brian and Terry), in Bedminster, PA. Involved in racing since 1995 with Marty Fallon as their trainer, one of their first forays into breeding was with their own Truth and Nobility, who they bought at Timonium for \$8,500 and went on to win stakes and earn over \$260,000.

"We did not want to sell her, so decided to start breeding and bought Bob Seeger's sold farm in 2000," said Sanfratello. "We now have four mares, and over the past three years, we have bred more in PA, and a little less in KY. It's hard not to, with the PA-bred program so strong now."

As President of the PA Breeders' Association, Sanfratello looks forward to working with the Racing Commission, partnering with them to make sure they understand the concerns of the horsemen. He'd also like to strengthen the restricted race program at Penn National.

"I appreciate what the PTHA and Mike Ballezzi are doing with the two-year-old restricted race program at Philadelphia Park starting in September," said Sanfratello, who, with partners, has horses in training with Phil Aristone, Ron Dandy and John Servis. "If we can get the breeders and trainers to get those races to go, it will raise the two-year-old sales prices and be of great benefit to the breeders -- and owners and trainers can point for them."

His third order of business would be to make sure the legislators understand the importance of the Thoroughbred industry to the Commonwealth.

The Sanfratellos have three children: Michele, Daniela and Nicholas, and five granddaughters.

He has been working for Prudential for over 27 years, and he and his brother, John, have their own office in Warminster.

"Working with my brother gives me an opportunity to make my own hours," said Sanfratello. "I can dedicate that time to the horses."



Brian and Terry Sanfratello at the Iroquois Breeders' Awards Banquet in May. Sanfratello served on the Breeders' board for two years, was elected Treasurer for two, and served as Vice-President last year. The newly-elected President hopes to further educate state legislators on the importance of breeding and racing of Thoroughbred horses to the state's economy.



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2009	268	19 (4) graded	24 (27) wins
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**(Summit continued from page 4)**

"I worked for two years at Thistledown Racetrack scoping racehorses, and I can tell you—mucus matters!" said Slocombe. "Viral or bacterial infections as well as mucus in the trachea due to allergy or environmental causes are the main airway problems in horses at the track. Horses with clean airways have twice as much chance of winning or finishing second than those horses with even a small amount of mucus."

The last panel of the day on Monday, although titled Transitioning Thoroughbred Racehorses to Second Careers, had little to do with retraining, but focused on the responsibility of taking care of retired horses when they are no longer competitive. Barbara Luna, Program Administrator of Turning For Home, represented the only program of five that was racetrack-based. The other four were CANTER Mid-Atlantic, the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, the Kentucky Equine Humane Center and Second Stride (the last two both based in Kentucky).

"It was heartwarming to see that every group works hard to protect the safety of the Thoroughbred horse," said Luna. "The PTHA's Turning For Home was held up as a model program on more than one occasion during the two-day Summit, and industry leaders congratulated us on the success we have gained in placing so many horses into new careers."

While each retirement program related its business plans and goals on Monday, the best ideas came from the workshop on Tuesday, which was closed to the public, but put panel members together with Bob Elliston, CEO of Turfway Park, Jimmy Bell, President of Darley USA, David Foley, Executive Director of the AAEP, and veterinarians Scott Palmer and Gary Lavin, among others.

"Although there is incentive to be successful on the racetrack, there is no incentive to help these horses be successful in their retirement," said Palmer, former president of the AAEP, and a member of its racing committee. "There needs to be a process of incentive, not education, that will prevent these horses from being 'wrung dry,'"

He agreed that the AAEP would work on guidelines for potential adopters, explaining common racetrack injuries, and identifying those that would not preclude a horse from new riding disciplines.

Euthanasia for horses who were unable to go on to new careers because of the severity of their injuries was also discussed, as all groups

(continued on next page)

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP!

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(Summit continued from page 9)

were confronted with this problem and lack of funding to maintain "pasture pals."

Alex Waldrop, President and CEO of the NTRA, and Jim Gagliano, President of the Jockey Club, closed the Third Summit of the Safety and Welfare of the Horse by discussing implementation of the ideas and plans generated on Monday and Tuesday by the many industry participants.

"In 2008, the breakdown of Eight Belles and the steroid issue with Big Brown elicited strong response from our fans," said Waldrop. "So began the Safety and Integrity Alliance."

"With a core group of principles, horsemen have come together, the Alliance fostering debate and cooperation between racetracks and regulators. Ultimately, the fans decide if we are to survive, and we need to take care of them," said Waldrop. "They drive this sport economically, and we can never lose sight of them."

Gagliano noted that there were over 1,000 hits from horsemen and fans from seven countries on the live stream of the Summit at [www.keeneland.com](http://www.keeneland.com) website. "This has been a wildly successful meeting," he said. "Let's put forth our efforts to bringing these ideas forward for the benefit of our entire industry."



## Pre-Race Testing for Alkalinizing Agents

The Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission will begin testing Thoroughbred race horses for  $\text{TCO}_2$  after developing a policy which strictly prohibits the use of agents or substances that elevate a horse's  $\text{TCO}_2$  level beyond what is naturally present (called 'milkshaking').

Elevated  $\text{TCO}_2$  levels are believed to have performance-enhancing qualities by limiting muscle fatigue. Horses shall be selected for testing at random, with probable cause, or as determined by the stewards or Commission. Caretakers of selected horses will report to a predetermined site (horse's stall or test barn) 2 hours prior to their scheduled race in order to have samples collected.

A horse that fails to show up for testing will be declared ineligible to race.

Horses are not allowed to be exercised prior to testing.

The regulatory threshold for  $\text{TCO}_2$  is 37 millimoles/liter of plasma or serum. It will be incumbent on the trainer or owner to provide any mitigating evidence at a stewards hearing as to a high reading.

The recommended penalty for a first offense is \$1,500 fine, 30 to 60 day suspension, and loss of purse.



# TURNING FOR HOME PAGE

## News & Notes on the PTHA's Racehorse Retirement Program

501 c 3 non-profit organization. Donations can be sent to to Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020

### Recent Graduates



#### Cloudy and Cold

Retired with Amy Veatch in TN and aside from romping in the field, he has proven to be a great mount for Amy's young daughter.



#### Stephen's Sport

One of the sweetest geldings in our program! He simply loves people, and people love him, too, as evidenced by his caretaker and huge TFH supporter, David Nunn!



#### Hibernia Gold

Was recently adopted by Beth Couturier as a dressage prospect. He had retired from racing in December due to a fractured cannon bone, repaired by Dr. Patty Hogan.



#### Haddon Prince

Retired from racing last October, the now 6-year-old gelding was adopted by Becky from Black Horse Hills in Coatesville, PA.



#### Priceless

#### Mischief (l) & Spartan Envoy (r)

Both fillies seem to have found new jobs in the show ring! Who says fillies are tough to place anyway?



### Special Thanks to:

**The family and friends of Joseph Smylie, Sr.**, including Roger Davis, the Weikel and Kunkel Families, the PTHA, David Carr, Barbara & Frank Bertolino, John and Janet Raucheisen, Bobbie McHale & Mary Steiner, Michael & Marilyn Anton, Carol Lynn Le Vine, Kathryn & Michael Pacitti, John DeStafano & Karen Confoy, Patty & Lorraine Humble,

**The family and friends of Henry "Rod" Cetkowski**, including Mr. & Mrs. Albert Latzko, Mr. & Mrs. Vishal Brahmabath, Dominic and Donna Anepete, John and Pat Borek, Cathy Ann Vandegrift, Peter Holsberg, Roseann Loforte, Henry & Pat Moeller, J. Vinch & Sons, Joseph & Viola Stefani, Patrick & Carol Grimm, Michael & Johanna Serbin, Benjamin & Kathleen Fong, Dominic & Donna Anapete,

**The family and friends of Alan Seewald**, including John Lambert and Gavin Gatta, Maryellen O'Mealia, William & Mary Coutros, Patrica & Henry Carroll, John and Wendy Slocombe.

*Thank you to those family members who have named Turning For Home as a recipient of donations when a loved one has passed away.*

### Turning For Home's Horse of the Month: Mathewlovestoparty



Each one of our 415 horses holds a special place in someone's heart. Mathewlovestoparty had quite a fan club among his many owners and trainers, and the affectionate one-eyed chestnut has also endeared himself to the volunteers at South Jersey Thoroughbred Rescue, where he is spending his rehab with a very serious suspensory injury.

At \$10/day per start that Philadelphia Park owners donate, 250 horses have to run before we can collect the funding for his care--expensive because of the length of time it will take to find a home for a horse with limitations--no matter how sweet or good looking he is. Please consider helping us further by donating \$100 when you win a race, so that we can give these beautiful horses the time it takes to heal, and lessen their time on our waiting list.

We thank you for your contributions to our horses, and remind you what they have all done for all of us!



**September 18, 2010 at  
Philadelphia Park**

**Sponsored by the PTHA**

**\$250,000 PTHA President's Cup Handicap  
1 1/8 Miles Turf**

**Nominations Close September 4**

## *Lisa James Otto*

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## **2007 PA-Bred Stakes Schedule**

6/25	PID	Leematt S.	3yo&up	6F	\$75,000
		Northern Fling S.	3yo&up, f&m	6F	\$75,000
7/3	PHA	Peppy Addy S.	3yo	7F	\$75,000
	PHA	Caught In the Rain S.	3yo f	7F	\$75,000
7/30	PHA	Power By Far S.	3yo, PA-sired	6F	\$75,000
	PHA	Roanoke S.	3yo f, PA-sired	6F	\$75,000
8/6	PENN	Robellino S.	3yo&up	1 1/16 (T)	\$75,000
	PENN	Russian Rhythm S.	3yo&up, f&m	1 1/16 (T)	\$75,000
8/19	PID	Lil E. Tee H.	3yo	1 1/16	\$75,000
	PID	Malvern Rose S.	3yof	1 1/16	\$75,000
<b>9/11 PENNSYLVANIA'S DAY AT THE RACES - PHILADELPHIA PARK</b>					
	PHA	PHBA Classic	3yo&up	1 1/16	\$100,000
	PHA	Mr. Jenney H.	3yo&up	5F (T)	\$100,000
	PHA	PA Horse Breeders Distaff	3yo&up, f&m	1 1/16	\$150,000
	PHA	Mrs. Penny S.	3yo&up, f&m	5F (T)	\$100,000
10/2	PHA	Alphabet Soup H.	3yo&up	1 1/16 (T)	\$75,000
10/15	PENN	Nepal S.	3yo&up, PA-sired	1 1/16	\$75,000
	PENN	Ligature S.	3yo&uo, f&m, PA-sired	1 1/16	\$75,000
11/24	PENN	Blue Mountain Juvenile S.	2yo f	6F	\$75,000
11/27	PHA	PA Nursery S.	2yo, c&g	7F	\$75,000

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# CONDOLENCES...

## MARIO CALDERON

Former jockey and exercise rider Mario Calderon died after a training accident on May 30. He was 55 and had celebrated his birthday just a day earlier. Born in Ecuador, he learned to ride in Kentucky. He retired from race riding in February, 2008 after almost 1,900 races.

He had been working as an exercise rider at Philadelphia Park and living in nearby Croydon with his wife, Nura, and two children, Mercedes and Mario. He is also survived by three brothers and three sisters.

A trust fund for his children's college education has been set up at TD Bank, in Bensalem. Checks can be made out to Mercedes and Mario Calderon, with a note "split between the children" on the check's memo line.



Friends of Mario Calderon gather in his memory in the Philadelphia Park winners circle on May 30. Barbara Weidl/EquiPhoto

## JOSEPH "POP" SMYLIE

Longtime horseman Joseph Smylie died at the age of 92 on May 13. Born in Philadelphia, Smylie married newspaper publisher Eleanor Jacobson in 1962. His sons Tim and Bob followed him into the business, with Tim eventually moving to horseracing after his father.

The owner of Wind 'N Leaves Farm in Jacobstown, NJ, Smylie loved the sport of Thoroughbred racing and owned horses up until the time he died.

Always proud to be a Marine, Smylie served in World War II, fighting at Iwo Jima and other battles in the Pacific.

He is survived by his six sons, Thomas, Joseph, Robert and Michael, and daughters Mary and Pamela, as well as grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. His wife passed away in 1998.

Smylie's family asked that donations be made to the PTHA's Turning For Home in his memory.

## HENRY "ROD" CETKOWSKI

Victory Thoroughbreds lost a special member when Rod Cetkowski passed away suddenly on May 1 at the age of 57. A longtime New Jersey resident, he was born and raised in Trenton, then moved to Brigantine ten years ago. A financial consultant, Rod was passionate about horseracing, and was a member of Lou Caccio's Victory Thoroughbreds, LLC.

"We shared many good times," said Cacchio. "He was a great person, and an even better friend. Rod loved the racetrack, and travelled to all of the tracks on the East Coast to watch the horses run.

"I remember last year when we won two stakes races in one day--at Philadelphia and Delaware, and we wove through traffic together getting to Delaware Park just in time to see Cherokee Country win. He was a true fan, and just a very, very good man."

His many friends and relatives donated to Turning For Home in his memory.

Cetkowski is survived by his wife, Donna.

## PAUL BONAVENTURA

Former East Coast horse trainer Paul Bonaventura passed away at the age 88 on May 7. From Trumbull, CT, Bonaventura was the owner and operator of the former Industrial Restoration and Construction Co. of Stratford. Born in Pettorano Sul Gizio, Italy on May 15, 1921, he had a love and passion for owning and training thoroughbred horses which he raced up and down the east coast. Mr. Bonaventura truly enjoyed spending time and playing with his cherished and loved granddaughter, Mia. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Dorothy Gillus Bonaventura; a daughter, Paula Bekech and her husband, Michael of Trumbull; a granddaughter Mia; a brother, Antonio Bonaventura and his wife, Rina of Wakefield, MA.; as well as several nieces and nephews.



## MICHAEL ESPOSITO

Thoroughbred trainer Michael Esposito died at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Hamilton, NJ on July 4. He and his wife, Joan, were owners of J.E.M. Stables in Mercer County, and ran a small breeding operation and riding stable for over 25 years. Esposito had trained Thoroughbreds for 30 years, racing on Pennsylvania and New Jersey tracks. Aside from his wife, Esposito is survived by two sons, David and Andrew; a daughter, Tricia, and stepson and stepdaughter Donald and Susan Brown, respectively. He also leaves six granddaughters and one grandson.



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# Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

"I get by with a little help from my friends," is the famous line from the Beatles song. There are many friends of the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association who are receiving help from their friends. This has been a difficult year here at track. I didn't need a reminder of this, but I am reminded as I see the growing line of jars in the Horsemen's Office for the young families who have lost parents, or those who have been injured.

This line of jars wasn't only sad. It is also inspiring. It is inspiring that there are good friends who care long after the funeral, or long after the hospital stay. I thought about this and I was struck by the word association in PTHA.

What is an association? An internet dictionary gives the following definition, 1. The act of associating or the state of being associated. 2. An organized body of people who have an interest, activity, or purpose in common; a society.

The first definition may not be all that exciting at first glance, although let me say that the act or action of associating is essential for healthy civilizations. One of the concerns today is that with more and more given over to government to 'take care of', the memberships and budgets of much more caring and more efficient organizations have drastically decreased. The act of associating is decreasing and our social life is suffering. That may be one of the reasons the Founders of this greatest nation in the history of the world did all they could to see that charity would be local. Even Thomas Jefferson wrote that charity would be applied best when it was coordinated and distributed, as much as possible, at the local level because there would be greater interest in its effectual distribution and application by members of the local community.

This brings me to the second part of our definition above where it says, "an organized body of people who have an interest." The more

direct and close the interest the better. So I was inspired by the interest clearly expressed by local horsemen for 'their own' by these jars in the Horsemen's Office. I was lifted by the evident expression of real and uncoerced community.



The jockeys have raised over \$3,000.00 dollars in just a couple of days for Mario Calderon's family. I had to ask when I saw the sign-up what the 'mt' meant next to the numbers by the jockey's name. They are not just giving a few dollars each but they are donating their entire earnings for a certain number of mounts. This compassionate generosity is most encouraging.

Scripture reminds us that, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world (James 1:27 NIV)." I have seen this acceptable religion being practiced here at Philadelphia Park, and though times are difficult, this lifts my spirit.

Scripture also tells us in the opening chapter of the first book of the Bible, Genesis 1:27 that, "God created man in his own image." As we like God work to help others, our association of horse lovers shows forth the highest calling of our being. I see the image of God in the generous spirit of the givers here, and yes times are difficult, but I am encouraged. You should be too. And know this – God sees all and He is proud of those of you who are sacrificially helping those in need and God is a debtor to know one. As the Good Book says, "He will not fail to reward a hundredfold in this life and in the next eternal life to those who have given up anything for His sake."

Keep up the good work horsemen and with God and a little or a lot of help from one another we will look back on 2010 and say, "It was a good year!"

Rick Bunker

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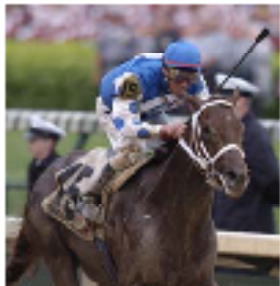
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