



PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter

We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

Volume 2, 2010

Cherokee Country PTHA Horse of the Year

Cherokee Country was awarded 2009 PTHA Horse of the Year honors at the annual awards banquet on February 24. His owner, Lou Caccio of Victory Thoroughbreds, and trainer Ramon Preciado went up near the podium to accept top Older Horse honors as well for their Kentucky-bred son of Yonaguska, and Outstanding Claim of the Year for His Lobo Del Norte.

Caccio, who has teamed up with Preciado for the last seven years, lives 1 1/2 miles from Philadelphia Park in Bensalem. Cherokee Country was claimed off of his maiden victory four years ago, and now has gone on to win 11 more races.

"I think the key to this horse was giving him time--time, time and extra time," said Caccio. "He had almost two years off with injuries, and came back in May, 2009 to win



Lou Caccio of Victory Thoroughbreds and Rita Preciado accept the trophy for top Older Gelding, Cherokee Country, from PTHA Board Member Ron Glorioso.

trainer for the first time. Leading B Division trainer (40 or fewer starts) was Ralph Kissoon, whose Polka At Night earned Winningest

five races this year, including the Fall Highweight at Aqueduct and the Valley Forge Stakes less than two weeks later."

Cherokee Country is back on the farm, scheduled to return to the track in late spring.

Standing up for the first time for an award was Leading Apprentice Jockey Pierre Hernandez. A native of Puerto Rico, the 20-year-old has been riding in the United States since last February after learning his trade at a jockey school in Puerto Rico.

Kendrick Carmouche won leading jockey honors for the second consecutive year, while Eddie Auwarter was leading

(continued on next page)

Backstretch Renovation in Full Swing, Restored Grandstand Ready in July

Soon after the disappearance of the last snowbanks on the backstretch, maintenance crews were on-site filling in potholes, blowing out barns, patching stalls and fixing faulty plumbing, broken windows and doors.

The flurry of activity by contractors, pavers and construction workers was a direct result of recent discussions between Philadelphia Park, Philadelphia Park CFO, Tony Ricci, COO Joe Wilson and PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi.

After a backstretch tour, management quickly agreed to schedule immediate repairs.

"As of early April, almost half of the barn area and dorms have been attended to," said Ballezzi. "The schedule of the building of the new barns has been intensified, with management planning four new barns in 2010."

Further conversations orchestrated by Ballezzi with management led to assurances that the grandstand would be restored to the

horsemen by July. With an exciting floorplan including a sports bar, and table service near the paddock area, as was formerly in place before the temporary casino, the first floor will be ready to accommodate trainers, owners and fans in plenty of time for PA Derby Day.



Milling of the pavement allowed potholes to be filled in around manure pits.



Stacks of new lumber lay outside barns where stall walls, windows and doors are scheduled to be repaired. Barn "blow-outs" began in early April

President's Message

When I first arrived at Keystone Racetrack back in the late 70's, I couldn't have imagined that the future would bring such security to the horsemen.

This winter's potholes between barns have nothing on the dips and hollows in a barn area that had no paving back in the day.

The dormitories which housed our backstretch employees had one bare bulb per room, and window air conditioning units hung out of the windows in the heat of the summer only if a groom could afford one.

Back in the 1980's, we were running for a ham sandwich, with bottom level claimers at about \$3,500 and purses to match. Total daily purses did not amount to much more than \$60,000 and if you couldn't live on that, there was no pension and no insurance to help you out either. There was no casino, the live handle determined our success.

We have come a long way.

After years of hard work accomplished by PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and our board, the results of Act 71, the Racehorse Development Fund, have made their way into every aspect of our lives at Philadelphia Park. From increased purses, now averaging close to \$260,000 a day, to better living conditions and health care for our backstretch employees, as well as pensions for our trainers, times have definitely changed.

Most recently, track management worked closely with Ballezzi, agreeing to speed up the backstretch renovation project, its funding direct result of slot machine revenue.

Without a doubt, horseracing has faced some big changes in the last 30 years, and not all of them good. But the future is looking pretty bright right here at Philadelphia Park.

Donald Reeder, President

Please send us an email if you'd like to be included on our **e-list** for special notices, Turning For Home internet newsletters, and other relevant releases. We will not share this list with vendors or mailing companies. It is for PTHA use only!

Your email address, along with comments, ideas for stories, etc., can be sent to **PTHANewsletter@patha.org**. The PTHA News can also be downloaded from our website www.patha.org.

In this month's PTHA News:

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(Horse of the Year continued from page 1)

Horse and Claiming Horse of the Year for his seven wins from nine starts in 2009.

Turning for Home, the PTHA's racehorse retirement program, presented its Special Recognition Award to Dr. Patty Hogan. Hogan has become an integral part of the program by donating her time and surgical skills to help many of the 360 horses that Turning For Home has helped since its inception in 2008.

About 300 horsemen were in attendance at the banquet, which was held at Celebrations in Bensalem. Aside from the awards ceremony, the banquet was highlighted by a silent auction of items including art, veterinary services, gift baskets, and racing equipment, the proceeds benefitting both Turning For Home and the Granny Youman's Scholarship Fund. **(For more photos and the complete list of winners, turn to page 5)**



Gary Babin and Representative Gene DiGiralomo (from left); Dr. Patty Hogan accepts Turning For Home's Special Recognition Award for all of the veterinary work she has done for the many Philadelphia Park retirees.

\$1M PA Derby Re-Scheduled New Date Makes for Perfect BC Prep

The Grade 2 PA Derby, Philadelphia Park's signature race, has been pushed back from its traditional Labor Day date to September 25.

The change avoids conflict with the August 25 Travers Stakes at Saratoga, and also creates a perfect prep for 3-year-olds headed for the 2010 Breeders' Cup six weeks later.

The Grade 2 \$750,000 Cotillion for 3-year-old fillies has been scheduled for October 3, five weeks from the Breeders' Cup.

This year's Labor Day features are the new \$300,000 Smarty Jones Stakes at 1 1/16 miles for 3-year-olds, and the \$250,000 Turf Monster Handicap at 5/8 on the turf for 3-year-olds & up.

2010 STAKES SCHEDULE

5/29	MY JULIET S.	F & M	6F	\$250,000
6/12	JOSTLE S.	3YO F	6 1/2F	\$200,000
6/26	DON LeVINE MEM.	3YO & UP	7F	\$200,000
7/5	DR. JAMES PENNEY MEM.	3YO & UP F&M	1 1/16 (T)	\$200,000
7/17	GREENWOOD CUP	3YO & UP	1 1/2	\$250,000
9/6	SMARTY JONES S.	3YO	1 1/16	\$300,000
9/6	TURF MONSTER H.	3YO & UP	5F (T)	\$250,000
9/18	PTHA PRESIDENT'S CUP	3YO & UP	1 1/8	\$250,000
9/25	PENNSYLVANIA DERBY G1	3YO	1 11/8	\$1,000,000
9/25	TURF AMAZON H.	3YO & UP F&M	5F (T)	\$200,000
10/2	COTILLION S. G1	3YO F	1 1/16 M	\$750,000
10/9	GALLANT BOB H.	3YO	6F	\$250,000



Get your money's worth

Tough times. You're ready to send your yearlings off, but a lot can happen on the way to the winner's circle. You need good advice from someone experienced in evaluating young racehorses from the start, so you invest the time and money wisely. Webb Carroll knows when to go and where to go with your yearling. Our outstanding training facility has all the amenities. Whether you send us unbroken youngsters, or those already started, at our modest day rate you'll get the most for your money. If a young horse would be better served by time off after breaking, we'll let you know the best options. And if they are ready to go on, they'll arrive at your trainer's barn gate card-ready, well-educated, sound, and as close to race-ready as you want them.

In 2009, WCTC graduates visited the winner's circle **268** times,
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RAVALO, and JUST JENDA

24 2YO winners!

6 winning first-time starters

21 seconds, **23** thirds

1 2YO stakes winner

1 2YO stakes-placed

WINSLOW HOMER starts 2010
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Equine Nutrition...

YEAST CULTURE: AN INGREDIENT THAT DELIVERS MORE THEN YOU REALIZE

By Paul Kropp

Mmmm, yeast. Brings to mind images of bread rising in the kitchen. Or maybe thoughts of microbreweries and wineries. But what about horse feed? Recent data shows that adding yeast culture to feed formulas directly corresponds with improved digestion, decrease in lactic acid after exercise, better utilization of protein in the diet, enhanced overall fitness levels and improved tissue and muscle reproduction and repair. Indirectly, this could lead to fewer incidents of diarrhea, colic, laminitis and a variety of other equine health and performance problems, while simultaneously improving performance and well-being of the horse.



FUSSY STOMACHS

Because horses are non-ruminant herbivores with unique digestive systems designed to maximize fibrous feedstuffs, most of their food products are indigestible without the help of intestinal bacteria.

In a digestive process call fermentation, these intestinal bacteria (called microbes) break down the fibrous portions of the diet into secondary products that are utilized for energy. Fermentation occurs in the large intestine, specifically the cecum and large colon. The large intestine, commonly referred as the hind gut, is the largest component of the horse's gastrointestinal tract. Feed particles that are unaffected by enzymes in the small intestine are subject to fermentation in the hindgut – a time-consuming procedure, considering that ingesta sometimes stay in the hind gut for upwards of 36-48 hours.

CONVERSION TO ENERGY

In the hind gut, microbes produce volatile fatty acids (or VFA's), which are very short-chain fats absorbed by the blood and utilized for energy. VFA's can contribute more than 30-70 percent of the horse's energy requirement. The hind gut also has the ability to digest those starches that were unaffected in the small intestine. Unfortunately, diets with heavy starch content can put extra stress on the digestive tract. In some cases, there are not enough enzymes to digest all of these starches, and problems can result if excess starch reaches the hind gut.

DYING MICROBES

As the microbes in the hind gut begin to break down these starches through the starch fermentation process, the very sensitive ecosystem of pH and microbes can be adversely

affected. As starches are fermented, lactic acid is produced as a byproduct.

This acid causes the pH of the cecum and colon to drop, resulting in an acidic environment. As a result of this change, those microbes – which are crucial for good digestion – can begin to die.

This causes a drastic change in the hind gut population. As microbes die, there is a strong chance they will release endotoxins, which can also damage the lining of the hind gut. Many problems occur as a result, from diarrhea to laminitis or colic.

FEED THE BUGS

Recent research shows one of the best ways to prevent the dying of these crucial microbes is to add yeast culture to feed formulas. Microbes, which feed on this yeast culture, remain healthy instead of dying, which enables better digestion. The fiber-digesting bacteria remain strong and healthy, and the horse has a better opportunity to receive full utilization of feedstuffs ingested. Diarrhea, laminitis, colic and other health issues can be avoided.

YEAST CULTURE IN FEED

A number of Agway Superior Feed Formulas, like Superior Gold, Emerald, Superior 14, and Respond contain added yeast culture from the exclusive DiaMatrix Technology™ and the Diamond V Process™, which takes place at the Diamond V corporate headquarters in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



Unlike many products with "yeast" in their names, Diamond V Yeast Culture is a true, fully fermented yeast culture developed specifically for maximum animal nutrition. The Diamond V Process™ carefully ferments selected yeast on the proper media to produce nutritional metabolites that serve as a rich food source for digestive bacteria. The result? Improved feed digestibility, which allows the animal the ability to reach a higher nutritional plane.

Paul Kropp is a nutritionist who spoke on "Digestive Health: The Key to Maximum Horsepower" at an Agway Equine Seminar held at Philadelphia Park in March.

2009 PTHA HORSEMEN'S AWARDS

February 24, 2010



Two-Year-Old Colt or Gelding - DEPUTY DANAY

OWNER: Winners Dinner LLC • TRAINER: Cal Lynch



Two-Year-Old Filly - ROMANTIC HIDEAWAY

OWNER: Red Oak Stable • TRAINER: Greg Sacco

Three-Year-Old Colt or Gelding - NEEYO

OWNER: Ghost Pines • TRAINER: Dee Curry



Three-Year-Old Filly - AMAZED BY GRACE

OWNER: West Point Thoroughbreds • TRAINER: Guadalupe Preciado

Four-Year-Old & Up, Horse, Colt or Gelding - CHEROKEE COUNTRY

OWNER: Victory Thoroughbreds, LLC • TRAINER: Ramon Preciado



Four-Year-Old & Up, Filly or Mare - COASTAL SOLACE

OWNER: Ruby Stables & Steve Klesaris • TRAINER: Steve Klesaris

Outstanding Claim of the Year - LOBO DEL NORTE

OWNER: Victory Thoroughbreds, LLC • TRAINER: Ramon Preciado

Claiming Horse of the Year - POLKA AT NIGHT

OWNER: Raphael Kissoon • TRAINER: Raphael Kissoon



Horse of the Year - CHEROKEE COUNTRY

Winningest Horse - POLKA AT NIGHT

Leading Apprentice Jockey - PIERRE HERNANDEZ

Leading Jockey - KENDRICK CARMOUCHE

Leading Trainer - EDDIE AUWARTER

Leading Division B Trainer - RALPH KISSOON

Leading Owner MICHAEL GILL

Leading Division B Owner - MALTESE CROSS STABLES

& ROBERT MURRAY



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RUBIYAT

RUBIANO--BLUSHING MADAME, by BLUSHING GROOM

Twice G2 placed: Peter Pan & Withers S.

Sire of 2009 Parfaiment Stakes runner-up Khayyam

2010 FEE \$1,000 (LFSN)



SMART GUY

SMARTEN--ROYAL TALI, by TALC

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Sire of MSW Secret Intelligence

2010 FEE \$1,000 (LFSN)

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Veterinarian's Corner

JOINT CARE IN RACEHORSES

DR. THOMAS LURITO

Most joint problems are seen in the front ankles and knees of horses between the ages of three and four. General signs of joint injury are heat, pain or swelling. Cold water therapy or poulticing can keep a horse comfortable until veterinary evaluation can be scheduled.

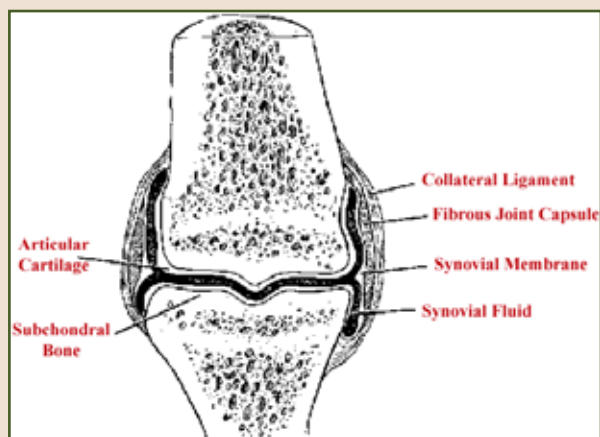
When the veterinarian arrives, he or she will:

- 1) Palpate the area to determine the amount of swelling and the degree of soft tissue involvement, as well as the joint's degree of range of motion;
- 2) Ultrasound to check the suspensory branches of the joint, or xray to check for osteoarthritis, chips, and a clear look at how the joint is involved.

The injury can involve the soft tissue, bone, or joint itself. In racehorses, many times it is a combination of all three due to the speed and concussion that occurs during training and competition. In this article, we will be addressing only fractures of the bone and damage to the joint itself. Soft tissue damage of the areas around the joint, which may include the suspensory branch in the fetlock is a huge topic best saved for another day!

The most common types of fractures involving the joints are chip(s) off the bottom of the cannon bone in the ankle; small chip fractures of the knees or ankles which can often be removed surgically; and sesamoid fractures.

The joint itself is made up of **articular cartilage**, **synovial fluid**, and the **joint capsule**. **Articular cartilage** is on the surface on the ends of the bones where they come together to form the joint. The cartilage allows the bones to glide with very little friction, but when damaged, decreases the performance of the joint, and does not heal itself well. The joint space or cavity is filled with **synovial fluid**. **Synovial fluid** helps lubricate the surfaces of the joint, while the joint capsule is the "saran wrap" that surrounds the joint and holds the **synovial fluid**.



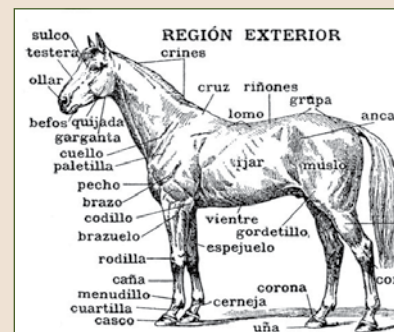
The best and safest way to address the injuries to the joint is to recognize each horse as an individual and set up a customized treatment regimen.

Both Legend and Adequan are popular pharmaceuticals used to treat joint disease. Legend protects and lubricates the articular cartilage because it simulates normal joint fluid, called hyaluronic acid. It is considered a short term treatment, administered intravenously by the veterinarian and does not need to be injected intra-articularly (into the joint).

Adequan is administered intra-muscularly, and is long term, usually given over a 28 day period, every four days. Considered a disease-modifying osteoarthritis drug, it can decrease the effects of arthritis on cartilage in horses, and relieves pain and swelling by stimulating cartilage repair.

Although both Adequan and Legend are available in intra-articular injectables, it should be noted that injection into a joint should only be performed by a veterinarian, and always carries some risk. Joint injections are successful only about 80% of the time, and it must be noted that any time a needle is introduced into a joint space, there is a chance that bacteria can be carried in and cause serious infection.

Dr. Tom Lurito practices veterinary medicine at Philadelphia Park, and is a much appreciated contributor to Turning For Home.



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

Check out the PTHA's website at

www.patha.org

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



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ALBERT THE GREAT

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- Sire of 2007 Wood Memorial S. (G1) winner, **NOBIZ LIKE SHOWBIZ** (\$1.5 million lifetime)
- 2008 and 2009 annual progeny earnings over \$1.4 million
- Four Grade/Group 1 winners in first two crops
- 2007 top five Kentucky 3rd crop sire with \$2.85 million in progeny earnings
- Grade 1 winner **ALBERT THE GREAT** (\$3,012, 490) won or placed in 12 graded stakes; defeated **TIZNOW**, **LEMON DROP KID**, etc.
- Holds the fastest 1 1/4 miles (1:59.24) run by a 3yo in New York

2010 Fee: \$3,500 live foal

COASTAL STORM

Storm Cat–Pearl City, by Carson City



- Sire of MSW **COASTAL SOLACE** (\$362,310), PHBA Distaff S. and Robellino S.
- Sire of \$100,000-plus stakes winners **EAGLE SPEED** and **FANCY DAN**
- A 2008 Top-20 sire of PA-breds, with winners of \$2-million in his first 3 crops
- Sire of the one-two finishers in the \$100,000 W. V. Vincent Moscarelli Memorial Breeders' Cup Classic
- Pennsylvania's Leading Freshman Sire of 2005, Leading 2nd Crop Sire of 2006, and Leading 3rd Crop Sire of 2007
- Progeny earnings for 2009–\$660,00 (\$2.3 million lifetime)
- Three-quarter brother to leading sire, **HENNESSY**

2010 Fee: \$2,500 live foal

FUSILLADE

A. P. Indy–Ring of Fire, by Nureyev



- Son of Champion Three Year Old and Horse of the Year, A. P. Indy–Leading Sire by 2008 Grade 1 Winners; North America's #1 General Sire in 2006 and 2003, and #1 Sire of GSWs in 2007 and 2005
- Out of unraced Ring of Fire, sister to multiple GSW **SPINNING WORLD** (\$1.7 million lifetime), winner of the Breeders' Cup Mile S. (G1)
- Fusillade broke his maiden first time out, winning Maiden Special Weight at Pimlico by 10 1/4 lengths with a 94 Beyer
- Fusillade was a \$800,000 yearling.

2010 Fee: \$1,500

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LITE THE FUSE

Buckaroo-Annie's Dream, by Droll Role



- Top 5 Leading PA Sire in 2009 and 2008; 3-Time Leading PA Sire (2006, '05, '04) with \$1-million in 2009 progeny earnings; \$20.1 million lifetime
- Sire of \$500,000 Super Derby (G2) winner, **GOING BALLISTIC** (\$1.1 million lifetime) and Canadian Classic winner, **ABLO** (\$565,823)
- Sire of fifty 2008 winners, including two-time Saratoga SW and G1-placed **FEROCIOUS FIRES** (\$368,767) and **I CAN'T REFUSE** (\$321,561).
- Sired SWs from 5 1/2 f to 1 3/16 mile on all surfaces with 12% lifetime stakes horses from starters; \$62,182 average earnings per starter

2010 Fee: \$3,500 live foal

MORE SMOKE

Smoke Glacken-Saunter, by Strolling Along



- By Champion Sprinter **SMOKE GLACKEN**, sire of 41 stakes winners; From the female family of Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner, **BIG BROWN**
- Won Keeneland's Lafayette S.-G3 wire-to-wire, winning by 14 1/2 lengths, posting a 112 Beyer Speed Figure
- Set all the pace to win Pimlico's Dancing Count S. by 3 3/4 lengths and Monmouth's Select S. by five lengths
- Third to Champion Sprinter **LOST IN THE FOG** in Gulfstream Park's \$150,000 Swale S.-G2
- First crop will race in 2011

2010 Fee: \$3,500 live foal

SIPHON (Brz)

Itajara-Ebrea, by Kublai Khan



- Pennsylvania's leading sire by 2008 GSWs
- Sire of 8 GSW and 14 SW, including champion **SIPHONICA**, 2008 winners **Z FORTUNE** (G3) and **DELOSVIENTOS** (G2) and 2009 SW **HURLEY'S WAY**
- Sire of a GSW in each of his first five crops, including G1 winners **SIPHONIC**, **I'M THE TIGER**, **SIPHON CITY**, and **SIPHONIZER**
- Progeny earnings over \$525,000 in 2009 (\$16.3 million lifetime)
- Multiple graded stakes winning sire with earnings over \$3 million
- Sire of 36 lifetime winners of \$100,000+ with SWs on dirt and turf from 6f to 1 1/2 miles

2010 Fee: \$3,500 live foal

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Louise Reinagel

GULF STORM

STORM CAT -- MISS TURKANA, by TURKOMAN

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TURNING FOR HOME PAGE...

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NEWS & NOTES FROM THE PTHA'S RACEHORSE RETIREMENT PROGRAM

TFH CELEBRATES SECOND ANNIVERSARY IN MAY

Spring has been an exciting time for the PTHA's Turning For Home, as newspaper, radio, television and magazine coverage came in perfect time for our second anniversary in May. Time has gone by quickly since we opened our doors to our first retiree, Tropical Kelly. Since then, over 380 horses from Philadelphia Park have been given safe, second chances after their racing careers are over.

We receive email and photos with the many success stories from adopters whose TFH horses, now finished with their racing careers, have gone on to new lives with children, show riders, and families.



Johnathan and Melissa King in TN welcomed the first foal from **Sultry Dancer** in April after they bred her to their Quarter

Horse stallion last year, in hopes of producing barrel horses. They had also adopted **Five Card Poker** for a ranch horse, and he is well loved by their 8-year-old daughter, Gracie.



It is especially heartwarming when TFH can place our older geldings and mares into great homes. **Feel**

the Dance left the track at the end of January at the age of 10. During her 75 race career, she was claimed 10 times, raced at 10 different tracks, and retired sound. Already she has approached her new life with the same class that she showed racing.

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Longwood Gardens
Brandywine River Museum
Adventure Aquarium in Camden
Flyers
Eagles
Phillies
New Hope and Ivyland RR
Applebees
Texas Roadhouse
Rick's Heritage Saddlery
Custom Silver Pendants
Chef Jean Pierre's in Newtown
Radisson Hotel in Trevoze
parxgrill
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TGI Friday's
PetSmart
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SAVE THIS DATE Friday, May 28, 2010

PA Horse Breeders Association's 31st Annual Iroquois Awards Dinner *Honoring Pennsylvania's Leading Thoroughbred Breeders of 2009*

Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course
Hall of Champions Room

5:30 p.m. Cocktails

6:30 p.m. Awards Presentations

7:15 p.m. Dinner



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CONDOLENCES...

ALAN SEEWALD

Trainer Alan Seewald passed away suddenly at his home in Middletown, NJ on April 11.

Although Seewald started his career in the Standardbred industry many years ago, he earned his Thoroughbred trainer's license in 1984 and saddling 962 winners from over 5,700 starts. He and his family were scheduled to fly to Keeneland for the April 17 running of the Lexington Stakes in which Uptowncharly-brown, owned by longtime owner Bob Hutt and Fantasy Lane Stables, was to compete. Uptowncharly-brown was the first Triple Crown candidate for the popular conditioner, and was to head to the Belmont Stakes in June.

Although Seewald was regular on the Monmouth Park circuit, he had maintained a year round string at Philadelphia Park. The affable trainer was an astute horseman, and was considered a friend by many. He and his wife, Kate, hosted a backstretch party every summer at Monmouth Park, inviting everyone from track management to hotwalkers. Their support of racehorse retirement and the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association was appreciated by all.

Seewald leaves behind his wife, and sons Ryan and Shane, and a grandson, Blake.



THOMAS CALDWELL LEVINE

Tom Levine passed away on January 14. The father of Philadelphia Park trainer Lynn LeVine, he had held a great passion for racehorses since the 1960's, and was a breeder, owner and trainer for many years. Known to his friends and family as being a man full of life, he served as first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, before his career in finance in the 1950s, and continued his work as a financial advisor until his death. His hobbies included golf, playing bridge, and he had recently gotten involved in the theatre, playing a part in a production of Oliver.

LeVine raced under the name of Puts and Calls, terms used in stock market trading. His best runners included stakes winning mare Baracouta, and her track record-setting son, Just Don, named for his brother Don LeVine. The Don LeVine Stakes is carded annually in memory of his

brother. "Dad was always a gregarious guy, one that everyone really liked," said Lynn. "He was still going to the office at Montgomery Janny Scott in Radnor, PA, where my sister Caren, worked along with him."

A regular on the backstretch, LeVine always wanted to train horses himself, and kept us his trainer's license, although Lynn ran his stable for the past 15 years.

LeVine lived in King of Prussia, with his loving companion, Jean Moon. He was predeceased by his wife, Pat, who passed away in 1993, and he is survived by his daughters, a son Thomas, Jr., and two granddaughters and two great-grandchildren, as well as a brother, Robert. In lieu of flowers, his family generously asked that donations be made to the PTHA's Turning For Home, Inc., the racehorse retirement program at Philadelphia Park, a non-profit organization that LeVine had supported prior to his death.

MARK FUSCO

Longtime Philadelphia Park trainer Mark Fusco passed away on February 26, while awaiting a liver transplant.

Known for his dedication to his horses and his sense of humor, Hedus will be missed by the many trainers who counted him as a friend.

Fusco trained horses at Philadelphia Park for over 20 years. He had grown up with Allen Iwinski attending the same high school.

"Mark used to come to the racetrack with his dad when I worked at Hazel Park," said Iwinski. "I ponied horses there in the afternoon, and he and his dad would go up to the top floor, and watch for me in the post parade. If I had a horse who warmed up good, I'd tip my hat, and they'd go and place a bet."

The two shared a tackroom down in New Orleans after winning \$20,000 at Detroit Racecourse, then flying to California and losing most of it at the windows.

"We only had enough left for airline tickets to New Orleans and two weeks in a hotel," said Iwinski. We started working for Frankie Brothers, who was assistant to Jack Van Berg at the time, and when our money ran out, we lived in the tackroom."

Iwinski said Fusco came up under him as a groom, and then worked as his assistant for years before leaving the Detroit area and moving to NJ when the Meadowlands opened in the early '80s.

Scott Lake, who met Fusco at Penn National back in 1989, described the trainer as a "true racetrack character, who was fun to be around. A real jokester, he had us howling all the time," said Lake. "He was also good dad to his kids."

Fusco is survived by his two children, Justin and Tiffany, and one grandchild.



Fusco in the winner's circle with Jake's Bandido in 2009. Jake's Bandido was a \$10,000 claim that earned over \$100,000 under Fusco's care.

CONDOLENCES:

Lynda C. Martin

Philadelphia Park trainer Lynda Martin died on April 3. A longtime horsewoman,

Charlie DeBuke, brother of Danny, who recently passed away

Kevin Willever, stable employee

Charlie Wahler, who rode in the 1946 Kentucky Derby, passed away

Dr. Philip J. Torsney, longtime owner and breeder, passed away on March 7. He and his late brother, Jerome, raced primarily in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. Philadelphia trainer Ned Allard had trained for Dr. Torsney for the last 30 years. Among his top runners were Horatius, Myfrenchman, Foolish Kisses, and her stakes winning son Gotaghostofachance, recently retired at the age of nine to the PTHA's Turning For Home program.



The Elite Program

Home of the Groom Elite Horsemen's
Education Program

The PTHA will sponsor a 5-week Groom Elite Program starting July 14, 2010. All PA-licensed backstretch employees are eligible.

Mission: "To provide horsemen an opportunity for professional and personal growth, by increasing their understanding of the horse with which they work and enhancing their professional skills."

Sign up in the PTHA Office, or call 215-638-2012



PTHA Sponsors Groom Elite Program

All Pennsylvania licensed backstretch employees are eligible to participate in the Groom Elite program, offered for the third time this summer at Philadelphia Park.

The program's mission is to give hotwalkers, grooms, exercise riders, assistant trainers and other backstretch workers a unique opportunity to learn more about horsemanship and to increase their skills in their careers on the backstretch.

Graduates of the program have advanced from hotwalker to groom positions, or grooms to foreman and assistants after finishing the five week course.

The 2010 Philadelphia Park schedule is as follows:

July 14 & 15
July 21 and 22
July 28 & 29
Aug. 4, 5 & 6
Aug. 11, 12 & 13

The program is easy to understand for both English and Spanish speaking studnets. All learning materials have been developed by college professors with backgrounds in horses, racing and teaching. Broken up into lectures and hands on, practical learning in the barns, students will learn about bandaging, lameness issues, anatomy and good horsemanship.

Classes are conducted during dark days and after morning training hours, and at the end of the five-week session, certification is awarded to those who have attended at least 80% of the classes and can pass five practical assessments.

The PTHA hosts a special picnic for graduates, and jackets, t-shirts, ID cards and a certificate are handed out to those who complete the course. For more information, contact the PTHA office, or the Groom Elite website www.groomelite.com.

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Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

This is my second Chaplain's Corner and as I sit here at an almost blank screen I am reminded of a question asked of Reinhold Niebuhr. The question was, "Dr. Niebuhr, were you scared when you preached your first sermon?" His reply was, "Not at all. It was the second sermon, since I felt I had preached all I knew in the first one." I have no anxiety about what to write or say chapel after chapel, memorial service after memorial service, and Bible study after Bible study. I can truthfully say that after twenty-five years of preaching and teaching I have scarcely touched the edge of the riches of the Word of God. I have but skimmed the surface.

That is how I feel about the past few months at the Racetrack. I have barely begun. There are so many people still to meet and those of you whom I have had the pleasure of meeting I look forward to seeing again and again. I want you to know that I am here to help, and I do not have preconceived notions about what sort of help is needed. I am here to listen and learn about what the Chaplain can do for you. I am trying to continue and maintain the fine traditions of the Chaplains Office set by the Chaplains before me, but even they have told me to be open to the new and changing needs of today and tomorrow. So, again, know that I am here to help and with great hope of helping just in the way that is needed today.

I would be most remiss if I did not hasten to quickly point out the recent season of Lent and Easter and Passover. That time when we look to and remember the One who gives us our greatest help. God is One who brings to us the changeless and eternal help that will never disappoint and will always provide greater blessings than we could ever hope for or even imagine on our own.

The Chaplain's Office sponsored the annual Easter party on March 27th from 1-3:30. There was face painting, games, prizes, gifts, and food, and of course, lots of hard boiled Easter eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt. The effort was worth it to see the families that joined us for the celebration and fun.

It has been a record setting winter. I know that you don't need to be reminded of that. You may have had some record setting back pains from all the snow shoveling. I suppose it has been hardest on the global warming proponents. I hope that by the Easter party the snow will be just a memory and, as if celebrating Easter is not enough, we can also celebrate the strong onset of spring.

Be sure of this - spring is coming as is summer after that. God's Word the Bible promises that, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." One thing that you can be sure will never change in these 'changing times' is God and His Word, neither will His great love for you. He will continue to love you will an everlasting love, and as He delivered Israel from their Egyptian captivity, and all who put their faith in Him, from their bondage to death through His work on the Cross, He will help you today as well.

I don't know why God loves us, but I know God does. It is as factual as the fact that that tomb that they put a dead Jesus in and guarded with an elite force of Roman soldiers was empty on that first Easter.



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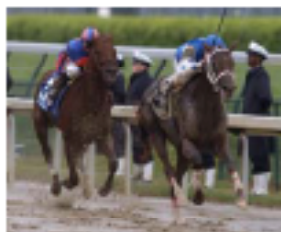
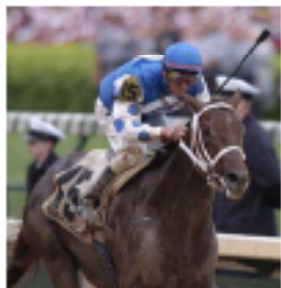
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