



PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter

We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

Volume 1, 2009

Purses and Pension Addressed at Membership Meeting



Two new barns were delivered to the backstretch this month, with a total of four to be renovated by the end of 2009. Plans are to continue to build barns until all 36 have been completed. Barn 29 is the latest in the renovation plan.

PTHA Executive Director Michael Ballezzi addressed the stabilization of purses and an exciting new pension plan for trainers at the general membership meeting held on January 17 in Philadelphia Park's rec hall.

In the last quarter of 2008, the parimutuel handle had shown a decline, and the slot revenue had reported rather flat returns.

As a result, Ballezzi said the purses must be adjusted accordingly.

"It is a temporary distress, and when the new casino opens in November of 2009, our purses will continue to increase, approaching \$300,000 a day."

When the temporary casino in the grandstand is moved to its permanent, state-of-the-art facility at the end of the year, the grandstand will be returned to a fulltime racing facility within six months. These permanent changes will positively affect both slots revenue and parimutuel handle.

The track returned to nine races on Mondays and Tuesdays, and 10 on weekends in early February.

During the meeting, Ballezzi announced additional good news about the pension plan and health care for trainers and their families.

The slot machine revenue has allowed the PTHA to propose a brand new pension plan, which, although still in the planning stages, will benefit trainers and their families, and will be retroactive to January 1, 2009.

Continued on page 2

2008 Pennsylvania Racing Awards Nomination Suggestions Due March 1

Suggestions for nominations for top horses of 2008 at Philadelphia Park are due in the PTHA office by March 1. The categories are:

Two-Year-Old Colt or Gelding

Two-Year-Old Filly

Three-Year-Old Colt or Gelding

Three-Year-Old Filly

Four-Year-Old and Up Horse, Colt or Gelding

Four-Year-Old and Up Filly or Mare

Claiming Horse of the Year (All Sexes)

Outstanding Claim of the Year (All Sexes)

The 35th Pennsylvania Racing Awards Banquet will be on March 25 at Celebrations in Bensalem. Also to be honored are 2008 Horse of the Year (to be announced), Trainer of the Year Scott Lake, Owner of the Year Plumstead Stable, Jockey of the Year Kendrick Carmouche, Apprentice Jockey of the Year Abel Mariano, "B" Trainer of the Year Carlos Guerrero, and "B" Owner of the Year Mercedes Stable.



Three time Eclipse Award winner and Horse of the Year Arts and Letters gave Hall of Fame rider Braulio Baeza his third Belmont win in 1969. His career was legendary: two -time Eclipse Award winner and five-time leading rider in purses won. Baeza has settled in at Philadelphia Park as a jockey agent for his wife, Janice Blake-Baeza. See story on page 6.

Report on the PTHA's Turning For Home on pages 10 and 11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We all hope to age gracefully, but there's nothing wrong with a little face-lift every once in awhile.

The PTHA will be presenting a "new" face to all in 2009 with the ongoing backstretch renovation. As more and more barns are renovated, and the old feed sheds are removed from the roadways between barns, Philadelphia Park will begin to shine!

We're all excited about the new look that the Horsemen's Purchasing Association store plans to better serve you. Look for some very positive changes by the summer.

And after you've paid for that feed and those bags of shavings, and are ready to load up, you may have noticed the wider, easier-to-use loading dock over by the trailers where Tex and his crew work.

We are updating our image to the outside world, as well: within a few weeks, anyone with a computer will be able to open up to our brand new website. Check out our new look and find all the weekly sales items from the HPA store, current news, links to sponsors, a calendar of events, information on the pension and medical plans, and an entire section devoted to Turning For Home, as well as easy ways to make a donation to help retire our horses.

We anticipate an unveiling of the new website by the end of March and hope it will be a useful tool for everyone.

Donald Reeder

PRESIDENT
PTHA



New loading dock

PTHA Trophy List

DATE	OWNER	HORSE	TRAINER
12/13/08	Raphael Kissoon	Looking for Class	Raphael Kissoon
12/27/08	Peachtree Stable	Tanganyika	Steve Klesaris
1/3/09	Dubb, Labet, Inc., et al	Double Down Vinman	Anthony Dutrow
1/10/09	King Star	Big Blue Martini	Juan C. Vazquez
1/17/09	Acclaimed Racing Stb.	Morethanclever	Scott Lake
1/24/09	Steve Klesaris	Gia Nina	Steve Klesaris



(Purses and Pensions continued from page 1)

"We are also planning a senior bonus to benefit senior trainers with 20 or more years of service," said Ballezzi. "They can receive a lump sum benefit which will help jumpstart their pension programs."

Ballezzi also noted that the backstretch renovation is on schedule, with two new barns delivered to Philadelphia Park on February 1. Barn 29 is currently undergoing reconstruction.

The meeting closed with trainers once again reminded of the zero-tolerance policy established by track management for horsemen who send their horses to livestock auctions which cater to kill buyers. Ballezzi reminded the trainers that they are responsible for making sure their retired horses end up in responsible hands once they leave the track, and suggested they contact Turning For Home to safely place these horses.

GULF STORM

Storm Cat – Miss Turkana, by Turkoman

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Carrie McCarthy with one of her father's horses at Philadelphia Park.

INSIDETRACK: McCarthy and Friends Give Another Chance to Former Racehorse

Like most horse lovers, Carrie McCarthy balances her days very carefully, managing her "real" job at Smith-Barney in between helping her father, trainer Bill McCarthy in Barn 22 at Philadelphia Park, and taking care of her own horses. She may be adding "movie consultant" to her schedule if the right people become interested in the story of Congomambo, a regally bred racehorse who she and friends saved from a life toting beginners and cowboy wannabees in a hack line at a public stable.

"I was walking through the barn where I rode and saw this big horse in a very small straight stall just looking at me," said McCarthy, who was at the barn to care for her three pleasure horses. "I saw right away that he had been kicked in the hock and no one had taken care of it."



The new and improved Congomambo still bears the scars of an ingrown halter on his face.

Shaggy and underweight with an ill-fitting nylon halter growing into the side of his head, Congomambo had recently been found in the killpen of a local livestock auction and was purchased by a dealer to be used for weekend riders, who were often greener than the horses they rode hard and ran at full gallop.

For the second time in his life, the bay gelding was snatched from a certain sorry fate by McCarthy and two of her friends, Pam Shavelson and Niki Yeager. The women took care of the horse, who had been nicknamed "Tomato" by a young girl at the barn who was trying to call him "Tornado." Shavelson, a trainer at Philadelphia Park, leased him for awhile and rode him on trails, but when the stable owner thought he looked good enough to join the hack line, the three women bought him for \$800.

His Coggins test labelled him a "Grade" (horse terminology for 'mixed breed'), his former handsome good looks diminished by lack of muscle tone and an almost indecipherable tattoo. What could be read of it was a possible matched for two horses who raced in New Mexico and Arizona, but no one was sure.

"Gerard Weipert (Philadelphia Park Stall Manager) and Sal Sinatra (Director of Racing) both tried to help me read his lip, and couldn't really be sure what it said," McCarthy said. "But I later found out that if you use a UV light, some of the numbers and the letter come up much more clearly."

Tomato was really a son of Kingmambo, who stands at Lanes End Farm for \$250,000, and his dam was 1990 Canadian Champion three-Year-Old filly, Lubicon.

"Even though we initially were told he was from New Mexico, I could tell just by being around him that he was very classy," said McCarthy. "He was always very willing and just nice to be around."

Bred by Live Oak Plantation and trained by Christophe Clement, he broke down in his third start at Belmont Park as the favorite. After some time off, he was sold by Live Oak Plantation and raced poorly at Calder before ending up at Charles Town. In June of 2005, his ankles couldn't take the wear and tear of racing. "He was supposed to have been sent to a retirement farm," said McCarthy.

Congomambo recently found a forever home with Jamie McKeehan and her daughter. It IS the stuff of which movies are made -- and it just might happen if writer Katie Meric has her way. The story of Congomambo and the women of Philadelphia Park who changed his life will be published in April, along with other racehorse rescue stories, in Meric's book, *Second Chance Horses*. Meric sees a movie in the making, and has notified McCarthy that she'll begin speaking to producers as soon as the book is published.



Jamie McKeehan aboard Congomambo

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Former Jockey and Hall of Famer Baeza at Home at Philadelphia Park

Amid a cacophony of cell phone ring tones, jockey agents pace the hallway near Philadelphia Park's racing office four mornings a week, condition books in hand, shouting to be heard by trainers on the other end of the line. There are entries to make and mounts to secure, and their verbal maneuvers are like racehorses weaving through traffic near the quarter pole.

Some of the men who manage the careers of members of Philly's jockey colony are former riders themselves. Two-time Eclipse Award winner Braulio Baeza, who manages the book of his wife, Janice Blake-Baeza, counts Arts and Letters, Dr. Fager, Buckpasser and Damascus as just four of the Champions he guided to the winner's circle between the years of 1960 and 1976 when he rode in the United States.

"I have been very fortunate in my profession," said Baeza, who speaks softly, and seems more comfortable when his wife relays his success story. "Owners liked me and liked my riding."



Arts and Letters, Baeza up, in paddock at Saratoga on way to a win in the 1969 Travers. His six length victory tied the track record set by Buckpasser and Damascus, and helped earn Arts and Letters Horse of the Year Honors.

Baeza was born in 1940 in Panama City, the son and grandson of Panamanian riders. He accepted his first mount at the age of 15, and at 19, he won 309 races in his country. His agent, Camila Marin, urged him to come to the United States.

He was the first Panamanian rider to come to the U.S. for the patriarch of American racing, Fred Hooper, who tested him on the first day he met him. Later, Hooper would bring Jorge Velazquez and Laffit Pincay into the States to develop as riders.

"I just happened to have my helmet with me when Mr. Hooper asked me to breeze a horse a half mile for him," Baeza said. "I didn't speak English at all, but when I was finished, he asked me how fast I thought I went."

Baeza answered "about :49," and Hooper told his trainer to put him on another one.

"He asked me again, how fast I thought I went, and I said "about



Baeza reviews Philadelphia Park condition book with his wife, jockey Janice Blake-Baeza. The two met when Blake was galloping horses for D. Wayne Lukas at Belmont and working toward becoming a jockey. "Braulio would help me with the Equicizer, and later would review the films of my races with me," said Blake-Baeza.

1:00," said Baeza. "He sent me right away from Miami to ride my first race at Keeneland."

Baeza still remembers the abrupt change in temperature from 80 degrees in Florida to 40 degrees at Keeneland but made the most of his time in Kentucky by winning with his first mount.

Among the highlights of his career are rides aboard 24 different Champions, including Hall of Famers Damascus, Buckpasser, Dr. Fager and Arts and Letters.

Buckpasser won 13 of his 14 starts as a three-year-old, and set a mile record under Baeza, who was aboard Tartan Stable's Dr. Fager two years later, lowering it to 1:32 1/5 carrying 134 pounds. Although his only Kentucky Derby win came in 1963 on Chateaugay, one of his most memorable moments was squashing Majestic Prince's attempt at the Triple Crown by scoring in the Belmont with Paul Mellon's Arts and Letters in 1969. Baeza and Arts and Letters would go on to tie the track record in the 100th running of the Travers at Saratoga.

Five times leading rider in purses won, and two time Eclipse Award winner, Baeza was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1976.

"He is a legend, as far as I'm concerned," said fellow Philadelphia Park agent and former jockey, Bobby Martel who rode races in the late '90s. "I knew he rode some great horses, and looked great on a horse. Riders were told that he is who we wanted to look like on our horses."

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ALBERT THE GREAT

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- Sire of \$1 million, 2008 TVG Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile -G1 winner **ALBERTUS MAXIMUS**
- 2008 progeny earnings over \$1.4 million,
- 2007 top five Kentucky 3rd crop sire with \$2.85 million in progeny earnings
- Sire of G1SWs **MY GREAT LOVE** and **ALBERT THE GOLD** from his first two crops
- Grade 1 winner **ALBERT THE GREAT** (\$3,012,490) won or placed in 12 grades stakes; defeated **TIZNOW**, **LEMON DROP KID**, etc.
- Holds the fastest 1 1/4 miles (1:59.24) run by a 3yo in New York
- 2009 Fee: \$3,500 live foal



BUDDHA

Unbridled's Song—Cahooters, by Storm Cat

- Pennsylvania's Third Leading Sire for 2008 with progeny earnings over \$1.7 million
- Sire of **HISSE** (SW at 2 and 3 with \$209,081 earnings), **BUDDHA LADY** (stakes placed with \$149,933 earnings), and **Dieties Day** (MSW winner by 7 1/4 lengths at 2)
- Other stakes horses: **GLORIFICATION**, **Lenaro**, and **Aviv**
- Won Wood Memorial S.-G1 defeating **MEDAGLIA D'ORO**
- 2009 Fee: \$3,500 live foal



CERTAIN STORM

Storm Cat—La Affirmed, by Affirmed

- Full brother to **BERNSTEIN**, sire of 29 stakes winners, 51 total stakes horses
- Full brother to 3-tme G3 NYRA SW **CARESS**, dam of G1 2yo SW **SKY MESA**, sire of eight 2yo winners
- Full siblings have sold for \$5.5 M, \$3.1 M, and \$1.5 M
- Out of a half-sister to champion **OUTSTANDINGLY**
- His first crop are 3yos in 2009
- 2009 Fee: \$2,500 live foal



COASTAL STORM

Storm Cat—Pearl City, by Carson City

- Pennsylvania's Leading Freshman Sire of 2005, Leading Second Crop Sire of 2006, and Leading Third Crop Sire of 2007
- Progeny earnings for 2008-\$670,977 (\$1,757,453 lifetime); 2yo starter average \$41,880
- 33% 2yo winners have won stakes, including **EAGLE SPEED** and **FANCY DAN**
- 2008 winners include **Coastal Solace** (3yo Dear Jane Stakes-placed, \$140,040), **AMAZIN WEBB SNYDER** (\$128,088), and **HURRICANE DOTTIE** (\$70,776)
- Three-quarter brother to leading sire **HENNESSY**
- 2009 Fee: \$2,500 live foal



LITE THE FUSE

Buckaroo—Annie's Dream, by Droll Role

- Fourth Leading Pennsylvania Sire in 2008 with \$1.7 million in progeny earnings and \$18.7 million lifetime
- Pennsylvania's Leading Sire of 2006/2005/2004
- Sire of ten stakes horses in 2007, including Super Derby-G2 winner **GOING BALLISTIC** also twice stakes-placed in 2008 (\$940,282) and undefeated **FEROCIOUS FIRES** (\$356,267) with another 2 SWs in 2008
- Sire of 35 stakes horses lifetime (15% from starters), including 22 stakes winners
- 2009 Fee: \$3,500 live foal

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MORE SMOKE

Smoke Glacken—Saunter, by Strolling Along

- 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
- By Champion Sprinter **SMOKE GLACKEN**, sire of 32 stakes winners
- First crop will race in 2011

2009 Fee: \$3,500 live foal



SANTANA STRINGS

Wheaton—Smiling Santanna, by Prospectors Gamble

- Multiple graded-stakes winning son of **WHEATON**, sire of 14 stakes winners, including 3 in 2008, and \$15 million lifetime progeny earnings
- **SANTANA STRINGS** won or placed in 11 stakes on dirt, turf, and synthetic tracks ages 2 through 6, retiring with \$576,955 earnings
- Won back-to-back stakes at 3—Alysheba Breeders' Cup S. and Amsterdam S. -G2 at Saratoga with a 100 Beyer Speed Figure
- In 2008 ran 2nd in the \$300,000 Sunshine Millions Sprint S., running a 103 Beyer, his best
- Santana Strings retired in 2008 to stand his first season in 2009.

2009 Fee: \$2,500



SHARK

Danzig—Surfside, by Seattle Slew

- Multiple stakes-placed son of **DANZIG**, sire of 10 champions and 200 stakes winners
- Out of champion **SURFSIDE**, winner of four G1 stakes at 2 and two more at 3; placed in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies -G1 and Breeder's Cup Distaff-G1
- **Shark** broke his maiden at Churchill Downs finishing 6f in 1:09 2/5 to win by 3 1/2 lengths
- Won or placed in 13 starts on dirt, turf and off-tracks earning \$183,976

2009 Fee: \$3,500



SIPHON (Brz)

Itajara—Ebrea, by Kublai Khan

- Sire of a graded stakes winner in each of his first five crops, including G1 winners **SIPHONIC**, **I'M THE TIGER**, **SIPHON CITY**, and **SIPHONIZER**
- Progeny earnings over \$2.4 million in 2008
- Sire of 24 stakes horses lifetime, 12 stakes winners, including champion **SIPHONICA**
- Sired eight 2008 stakes horses including **PARK AVENUE PRINCE** and **DELOS VIENTOS** also a G2 winner in 2008 along with G3 winner **Z FORTUNE**
- Multiple graded stakes winning sire with earnings over \$3 million

2009 Fee: \$5,000 live foal



ZAVATA

Phone Trick—Pert Lady, by Cox's Ridge

- A Top 2nd Crop Sire with 31 winners and 3 stakes horses
- Sire of two crops to race with progeny earnings of over \$1 million, including 2008 stakes-placed **Dakota Phone** (\$113,480) and **Secret Talent** (\$51,895)
- A multiple NY Graded SW at 2 (Saratoga Special -G2 and Tremont S. -G3) and G2 SW at 3 going, 6f in 1:08.64
- Top 10 on Experimental Free Handicap

2009 Fee: \$3,500



PTHA's Turning For Home PHILADELPHIA PARK RACEHORSE RETIREMENT PROGRAM

February 14, 2009

Dear Friends,

On a whim one quiet day, I added up the total starts, wins and earnings for all of the horses who have come into our program. It's an impressive reminder of what these horses have done for us:

1,756 Starts; 798 Wins; \$4.6 million in Earnings

It's time for all of us to say "Thank You."

In just nine months, from May 2008 through January of 2009, the PTHA's Turning For Home has helped 135 retired or injured Thoroughbred racehorses. While we are proud of what we have done, it is a startling number because it demonstrates the great need for our presence at Philadelphia Park. In the past, trainers and owners who needed to retire horses often could not be assured that horses they had carefully trained, nurtured and fed would end up in safe homes or retirement facilities when their racing days were over.

It takes more than statistics to prove the importance of our mission. It is the opportunity for little **Call Option**, a five-year-old gelding with a fractured knee, to be turned out in a paddock on a sunny day for the first time since his injury months before. Or the "yes!" moment one of our caretakers experienced when **Holiday Peak**, who came in with a serious hind leg injury, laid down, rolled and leaped to all four feet squealing after 12 weeks of patiently waiting on stall rest.

Our many adopters have shared amazing stories of their love and connection to our beautiful racehorses, who, ears pinned and noses outstretched towards the finish line weeks ago, now follow their new owners like puppy dogs and proudly move to new careers as pleasure horses, dressage mounts, or pasture pals.

We want to continue to show our thanks and take care of our own, but need your help. The funding needed to move our horses into a safe retirement without owners and trainers suffering long waiting lists, to supply surgery and rehabilitation to those who have been offered a good prognosis for a comfortable life, and to assure that new and loving homes are waiting for all of them is expensive. It is our mission to promise Philadelphia Park horsemen a safe outlet for their retired racehorses, and to guarantee that all of the retirees have a chance to spend a day in the sunshine in a grassy paddock, or wait for a child to bring carrots and a hug.

Would you please help us say "thank you" to our wonderful athletes?

Sincerely,

Barbara Luna
Program Administrator

Call Option with
volunteers while
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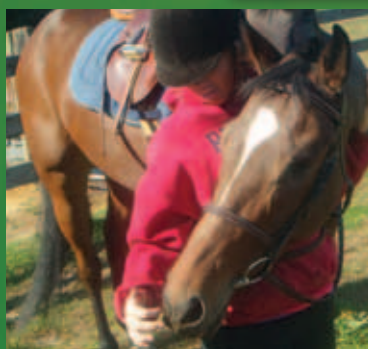
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3-Year-Olds & Up, F & M 1 1/16 Miles (Turf)

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\$75,000
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Races Run in September

3-Year-Olds 6 1/2 Furlongs
3-Year-Olds & Up 6 1/2 Furlongs
3-Year-Olds & Up, F & M 6 1/2 Furlongs

Philadelphia Park Races Run in November

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Progeny earnings exceed \$12M

Leading sire of 11 Stk Winners

Current 2008 progeny earnings \$3.7M

2009 Fee: \$6,000 Stands and Nurses

**#1 & #2 Stallions
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REAL QUIET

Quiet American—Really Blue, by Believe It

Kentucky Derby, Preakness Winner

3 yr. old Horse of the Year

Sire of Two-time BC Sprint
Winner Midnight Lute

Sire of multiple Gr 1 Stk Winners

Lifetime progeny winnings of \$15+M

2009 Fee: \$7,500 Stands and Nurses

**Thoroughbred Times, Dec. 4, 2008*



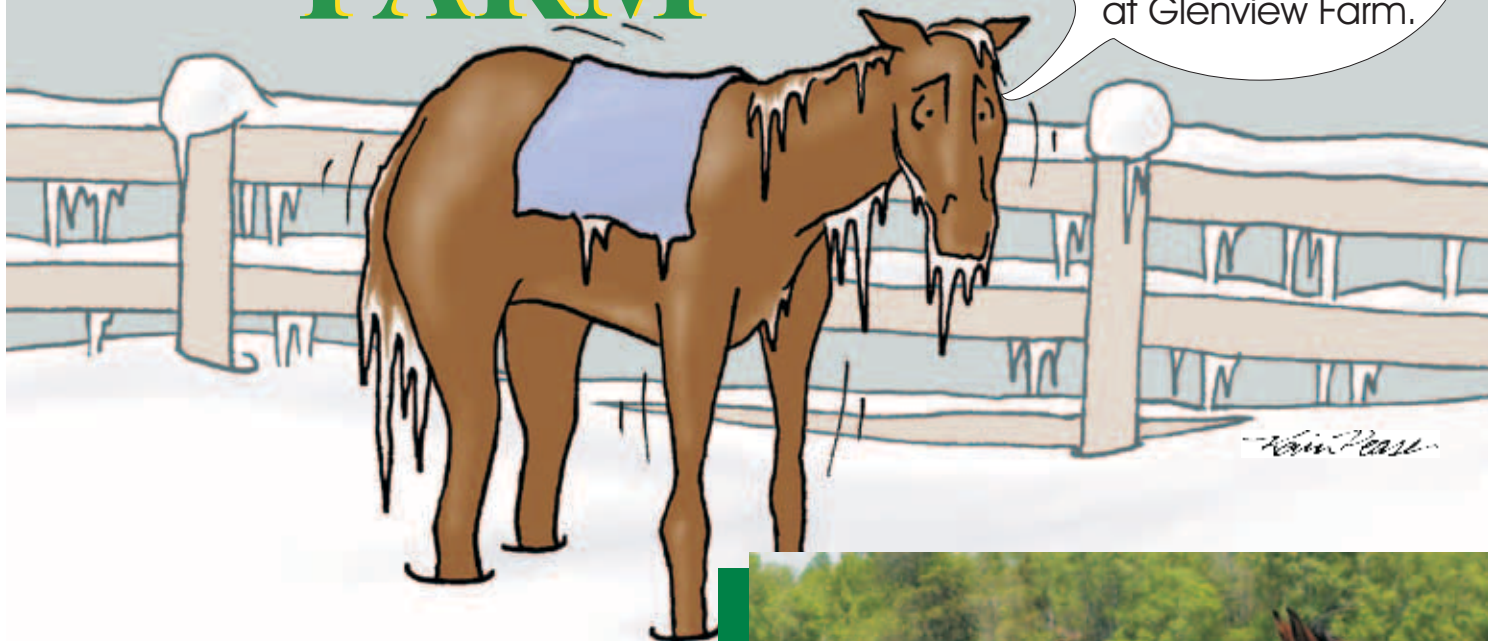
Penn Ridge Farms stands the top two stallions in PA for 2009. These incredible champions will take your breeding, racing and sales program to the top tier of the industry. Our lucrative PA program is one of the richest in the country and our stallions are the best in the state. Visit our website, pennridgefarms.com, to schedule a personal visit, download contracts and request an eNick for your mares. Book now!

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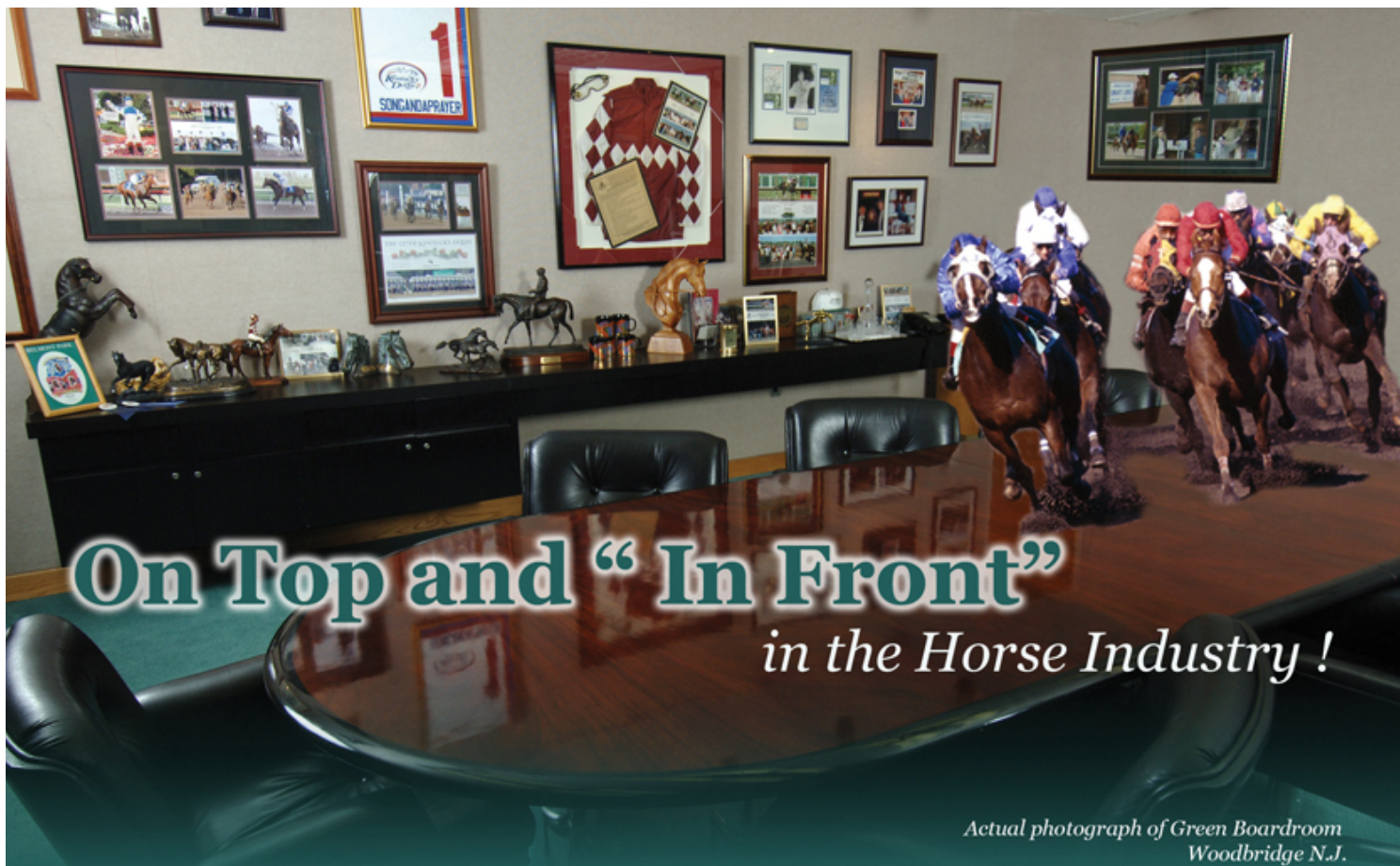
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She's Got that "Magic Touch" Former Violinist Now Uses Hands to Soothe Horses



Cindy McVey massages Steve and Michelle Mick's Billow Talk on recent rounds at Philadelphia Park.

Since she was a child, Cindy McVey loved horses, and in particular, racehorses. Although she grew up a concert violinist and music teacher, just five years ago McVey made a complete career change and became an equine massage therapist.

In recent years, equine massage and chiropractic work has become very popular among the showhorse and racing population, but very few of the Equissage graduates have laid hands on a Triple Crown competitor within the first few years in the work force.

In McVey's case, it was Larry Jones' Hard Spun who felt the kneading, rubbing and soothing motions that relax and comfort equine athletes. McVey had met Jones through owner Rick Porter.

The petite McVey, whose business is called Happy Mare Equine Massage Therapy, can be found at Philadelphia Park a couple of times a week.

Recently, she stopped in regular client Robert Seeger's barn to donate a massage for Favorite Sweets, a filly who had just been placed into the PTHA's Turning for Home, Philadelphia Park's racehorse retirement program.

McVey has donated a massage to the March 25 Silent Auction during the Pennsylvania Racing Awards Banquet. All proceeds will benefit Turning For Home and the Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund.



McVey makes friends with a potential client at Philadelphia Park. She spends 90 minutes on each horse, helping to relieve tension and decrease inflammation.

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Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Jack Cordell

"IT'S JUST THAT SIMPLE"

It was a memorable conversation. At a barn a few weeks ago, someone expressed how much he regretted that he had made no great invention or scientific discovery that saves lives or makes life better for millions. (Well, I thought, that makes two of us!) He was sincerely discouraged that his life had made no significant contribution to others. It was a somber moment. But, almost as quickly, he said something that cut to the heart of it all. He said, "I suppose the only thing I can do is love God."

Those were profound words, indeed. In fact, Jesus told a group of Pharisees that "the first and greatest commandment" is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)

Think about it. Loving God enables us to fulfill our most important calling in life. To love God means that all else will fall into its proper place and our lives will make a difference in this world. Our greatest accomplishment is to love God, and allow him to take care of the rest. He is not looking for the rich and famous, the achievers, or the great. God is looking for those who will love him. It's just that simple.

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