

Show Bits

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION

Winter 2007

President's Message

Congratulations to one and all on the conclusion of the 2007 show season. Our season started off slowly in terms of membership and attendance, but ended very strong with a well attended Benefit Show. The BCHSA Benefit Show always provides members with a great finale to a long season of showing. Our annual Parent Lead Line class was popular again this year and the association once again donated the proceeds to the Bonnie Thomas Memorial Fund at Garrison Forest School.

Our Banquet of Champions was one of the best attended in recent years with close to 350 people in attendance to celebrate the accomplishments of our award winners. The new spot for our banquet, Martin's Valley Mansion outdid themselves; their facility is magnificent, the staff tended to our every need and the menu provided was delicious. Reaction and comments from those who attended were very positive on the facility as well as the Silent Auction and our Raffle Drawings. Congratulations to Susan Niller who won the painted table and to Leslie Ruth who went home the winner of the 50/50 Raffle. We are looking forward to returning next year for our 2008 celebration.

As we approach the 2008 season look for an association that will be transforming itself into a more "user friendly" organization. The board is working diligently over the winter to review policies and rules, to create new offerings for competitors and to streamline the membership process. All of these, and many more ideas have been the result of board discussion and member output. We have had several positive open meetings where ideas and opinions have been exchanged between members and the board. We are pursuing all ideas and suggestions to see if they can be adapted for the betterment of the BCHSA.

Please mark your calendars for a special meeting of the BCHSA. Due to the extent of the changes within the association the board felt that we needed to assemble the membership at a special meeting for voting purposes. All voting members are invited to join us on Monday, February 25, 2008.

I look forward to seeing you at our special meeting, if not before, and wish everyone a very safe and healthy holiday season.

Julie Wright

2007 Year End Awards

If you were unable to attend the Banquet of Champions and have not received your award please get in touch with Laurie Kiser-Mace. Prizes will be available for pick up until January 30, 2008. After that date they will no longer be available. Please contact Laurie by calling her at (410) 247-0142 or by e-mail LKMace@verizon.net.

BCHSA 2007 Champions

The 2007 Banquet of Champions celebrated the accomplishments of many of our riders, too many to mention in this publication, but here are the names of our special award winners:

The Running Bayou Perpetual Trophy- Best Child Rider on a Horse-Katie Hindman
Barbary Coast- Posey Obrecht Best Child Rider on a Pony- Lauren Ginsburg
The Chuva Da Bril Perpetual Trophy- Gryffindor- Madison Niller
Best Adult Amateur Rider-Peter Sicher
BCHSA Distinguished Service Award- Bonnie Thomas
The James Lee McGehee Memorial Trophy-Lauren Moran
The Robert Tearle Memorial Trophy-Roland "Buddy" Slimmer

2008 Memberships

As the saying goes "the early bird gets the worm..." and so to will 2008 membership applications received during the month of February.

BCHSA 2008 membership information will be arriving in your mailbox mid to late January. BCHSA will be offering a giveaway for membership applications returned before February 29, 2008.

Quantities of our giveaway are limited so act fast, and return you application before the closing date.

A reminder, please take the time to clearly print your application, making sure we have your e-mail address. The association's e-mailing capabilities are expanding and will be used as a primary communication tool during the 2008 season and beyond. Don't miss important announcements and updates, please fill out clearly and don't forget to double check numbers, zip codes, etc.

Angel Acres Fund/Blanket Raising

Angel Acres is a small horse rescue dedicated to rescuing thoroughbreds at New Holland Auction and other auctions across the US.

Jo Deibel is President and Director and runs Angel Acres with her partner Patty Winkler. Jo started her rescue after learning of the potential fate of a thoroughbred she adopted from a local rescue in Chesapeake City, Md. To date Jo has saved over 300 horses in 3 years. After purchasing the horses for an average of \$400 the horses are transported to one of 4 satellite farms she leases. They are given time to "let down", act like a horse and clear their systems of any leftover racing drugs. Vet and farrier evaluations follow. And with cold weather fast approaching we need to blanket these horses. Many have very little body fat to keep them warm.

In about 30 days the horses are evaluated for riding and become available for adoption. Many are wonderful riding horses immediately or will make wonderful trail or show horses with some work. Recently one rescued horse turned out to be a 16 yr old schoolmaster, a highly trained dressage horse, and another just a few days ago has just been discovered to be a MD Million winner whose earnings totaled \$283,000! Jo's rules for adoption are no racing and they may not be sold at auction. She is particularly careful about screening potential adopters and rescuing healthy, sound horses. After all, these horses

deserve good second chances. Many are guilty of just not running fast enough.

And now about those shoes... after being sanded and painted by Jo's husband, Greg, she decorates them with Raven's stickers, Xmas decorations, beach theme decorations, skiing decorations, cheerleading decorations, and plenty more. They are adorable and are a true labor of love for the horses!! These "lucky" horse shoes are \$15 and all of the money goes towards Jo's purchase of more horses. It takes approximately 27 shoes to save 1 horse on the average. Shoes are being sold on the Angel Acres website- www.saveahorsenow.org or www.Angelacreshorsehavenrescue.com Click on the online "shoe" store icon. You can bring your own shoe for decoration or we can customize shoes within reason!! They make great holiday gifts and birthday presents. Recently one was sent to a patient at shock trauma.

Our thanks go out to the many local farriers, horse owners, riders and friends who have been helping us with our shoe "fix". The demand continues to grow and Jo has been madly shipping these shoes all over the US all in the name of the *horses*. After all that is what it is all about? Right?

Please fill out and return the Membership Survey found on the website!

