

The Maryland Horse Industry Board's

# A Year of Touch of Class Awards

Honoring Excellence in Maryland's Equine Industry

Arabian Racing

Barrel Racing

Harness Racing

Steeplechase

Therapeutic

Thoroughbreds



Dressage

Jousting

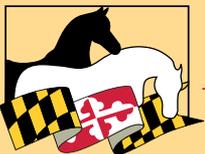
Endurance

Hunter/Jumper  
Pony Sires

Three-Day Eventing

Polocrosse

The Touch of Class Award honors Maryland horses, individuals, teams, organizations or events that demonstrate national or international excellence. It is named after the Maryland-bred mare, Touch of Class (above), who won two Olympic show jumping gold medals and currently holds the Olympic record for number of clean jumping rounds in an Olympic competition. Touch of Class is enshrined in the U.S. Show Jumping Hall of Fame. During its first year, the Awards have recognized 24 people and 12 horses from 12 different Maryland counties who are involved in a dozen horse disciplines. Photo by Cappy Jackson.



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HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD





## About the Maryland Horse Industry Board

**T**he Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB), a program of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, inspects and licenses stable operators and promotes Maryland's horse industry in all its disciplines. The Board also advises the Agriculture Secretary on policy matters affecting the horse industry. The Board's 12 members are appointed by the Governor and serve four-year terms.



Each member represents a specific sector of the industry, from recreational riding to thoroughbred racing. MHIB is one of only about a half dozen state commodity equine boards in the country and is charged with marketing and promoting Maryland's horse industry. MHIB is a member of the American Horse Council.

Maryland's equine industry employs more than 28,300 people

The industry holds approximately 10 percent of Maryland's land (587,000 acres),

The equine sector has assets totaling more than \$5.6 billion.

Maryland has more than 79,000 equine animals valued at \$714 million.



**T**he MHIB commissioned the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service to undertake an exhaustive study of the state's equine industry to determine the sector's size and impact. Some of the findings from the Maryland Equine Census are shown in the boxes above.

For more information, visit:

Maryland Equine Census: [www.mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/census.html](http://www.mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/census.html)



## Graham Motion – Thoroughbred Training & Racing

**September 2011** — Graham Motion, one of the country's leading Thoroughbred racehorse trainers, bases his operation at the Fair Hill Training Center in Cecil County. Motion won the 2011 Kentucky Derby with Animal Kingdom and ended 2011 as the fifth leading thoroughbred trainer in the country with 109 wins with 497 starts and total earnings of more than \$8.5 million. Motion (at right, center) accepted the first ever Touch of Class award from MHIB Chairman Jim Steele (left) and Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance (right) at a luncheon at the Baltimore County Center for Maryland Agriculture in Hunt Valley.



*“The equine industry is an integral part of Maryland’s cultural and economic heritage. We commend Graham Motion for his extraordinary achievements and for his dedication to Maryland’s horse industry.”*

— **Maryland Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance**



## Colleen Rutledge & Shiraz – Three-Day Eventing

**October 2011** — Colleen Rutledge and Shiraz were the third highest-placed U.S. horse and rider combination at the prestigious Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials for Three-Day Eventing in England. Last year, she was ranked 39 out of about 11,000 riders. This year, she was ranked as high as 14. Her goal is to one day make the U.S. Olympic eventing team. She lives in Frederick County and operates the 60-acre Turnabout Farm in Howard County. The Touch of Class award was presented during the Maryland Million Horse Race at Laurel Park.



*“Colleen and Shiraz have taken advantage of the amazing opportunities and facilities that we have here in Maryland to train and prepare to excel at the highest level of international competition.”*

— **MHIB Chair Jim Steele**



## John Crandell III & Heraldic – Endurance Riding

**November 2011** — John Crandell III and his Arabian gelding Heraldic won two silver medals in endurance riding at the 2011 Pan American Games in Chile. The pair, which completed the 75 mile Pan Am Course in 6:03:38, is the only team ever to win the Triple Crown of Endurance Riding, which they did in 2006. The Crandells operate Long Run Farms Stable in Anne Arundel County. The Touch of Class Award was presented during a Welcome Home event held at the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis.



*“Maryland has an impressive history of raising the finest equine athletes who continually distinguish our great state around the world. I’d like to commend the Crandell Family for their legendary accomplishments and commitment to the highest standards of equine training and care.”*

— **Governor Martin O’Malley**



## Tiffany McClure – Barrel Racing

**December 2011** — Tiffany McClure and her roan quarter horse Dinks Rocking Again became the International Professional Rodeo Association’s 2010 World Champion Barrel Racer. She was also the 2002 American Professional Rodeo Association’s Rookie Barrel Racer of the Year and Rookie Cowgirl of the Year. Tiffany grew up in Prince George’s County and graduated from Anne Arundel Community College. Tiffany (at right) accepted the Touch of Class Award from Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance during an advanced, private screening of *War Horse* in Washington, D.C. (See page 5.)





## Blue Rain - National Champion Pony Sire

**January 2012** – Blue Rain, a pony stallion who has produced more champion hunter ponies than any other pony sire in history, was the U.S. Equestrian Foundation’s National Champion Pony Sire from 2004 to 2011. A Welsh pony thoroughbred, Blue Rain, 23 years old at the time of the award, lives at Springdale Pony Stud in Frederick County and is owned by Allyson Coluccio and Lisa Gordon Carr. The Touch of Class award was presented during the Horse World Expo in Timonium. Blue Rain’s son, Blue Fox (at right), who is 10 years old and also lives at Springdale Ponies, accepted the award for his dad.



*“The equine industry in Maryland is extremely diverse and goes well beyond horse racing. Blue Rain and Springdale Ponies represent one of the many facets of this important Maryland industry.”*

— **Agriculture Deputy Secretary Mary Ellen Setting**

## Special Events: Supporting the Industry & Our Country



**T**he Maryland Horse Industry Board joined with The Maryland Jockey Club and the American Horse Council to sponsor a private, advance screening of the Steven Spielberg movie, “War Horse,” at the Lincoln Theater in Washington, D.C. Proceeds benefited the Wounded Warrior Project, A Home for Every Horse, and the Maryland Fund for Horses. Nearly 1,000 people attended, including several members of Congress and the Armed Services. The December Touch of Class Award was presented during the event.



## A Night of Maryland Racing Champions

37% of all horses in Maryland are race horse breeds.

The Maryland Horse Industry Board presented its February, March and April Touch of Class Awards to eight national champions in four racing disciplines during “A Night of Maryland Horse Racing Champions,” an event held at the Sports Legend Museum at Camden Yard in Baltimore.

*“The people and the horses that we recognize tonight are great national champions, not just hometown favorites, and they are true ambassadors for the industry and for our state. I congratulate all of them on their successes and for their commitment to this important agricultural sector.”*

— **Buddy Hance, Maryland Agriculture Secretary**

The **February 2012** Touch of Class Award was presented to one Thoroughbred and two Harness champions.

**Thoroughbred gelding Rapid Redux** owned by Baltimore County native Robert Cole, Jr., won 22 consecutive races, including a perfect 19-for-19 season in 2011. His winning streak includes races at seven different tracks at distances of five furlongs to 1-1/8 miles, using seven riders.



**Standardbred colt Roll With Joe** was named the U.S. Harness Writers Association’s Dan Patch Award winner as the U.S. Three Year-old Pacer of the Year and was runner-up for Horse of the Year honors. He was bred and raised at Winbak Farm in Cecil County.

**Googoo Gaagaa, a Standardbred colt**, set a world’s record for a mile (1:56) by a trotter at a half-mile track during the Hubert Jackson Memorial Maryland Sire Stakes at Ocean Downs. GooGoo GaaGaa, undefeated in six lifetime starts, was bred, owned and trained by Richard Hans of Carroll County.



## Thoroughbreds, Steeplechase, Harness, Arabians

The **March 2012** Touch of Class Award was presented to three national steeplechase champions



**Irvin S. Naylor**, a champion U.S. steeplechase owner, maintains Still Water Farm and Training Center in Baltimore County. In 2011, Mr. Naylor's stable led all U.S. owners, winning 16 races.

**Tom Voss**, a champion U.S. steeplechase trainer, operates Atlanta Hall Farm in Harford County and has been the nation's leading steeplechase trainer four times. He added a fifth national steeplechasing title this year, winning 16 races.



**Bon Caddo**, the U.S. champion timber horse, was winless in 2010 but came back in 2011, winning the My Lady's Manor Steeplechase and the Virginia Gold Cup and finishing second in the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup. He is owned by Charles and Barbara Noell of Merriemfield Farm (Harford County) and trained by Dawn Williams, at Belmont Farm (Baltimore County).

**PHOTOS.** *Top:* Rapid Redux (by Jim McCue/MJC), BonCaddo (by Zane Gorove), GooGoo GaaGaa (courtesy of Ocean Downs Race Track), Golden Odessy (courtesy of Delaware Park.) *Right Center:* Irv Naylor, left, and associates accept award (by Jim McCue/MJC). *Bottom:* Tom Voss (by Tod Marks).

The **April 2012** Touch of Class Award was presented to two Arabian racing champions. Both are boarded at Rigbie Farm in Harford County, owned by Sharon Clark.



**Golden Odessa**, a Maryland-bred filly raised in Harford County, was named Champion Three Year Old Filly of the Year during the 2012 Darley Awards, "the Oscars" of purebred U.S. Arabian racing. She also won the Delaware Park Arabian Juvenile Championship Stakes and the Dr. Sam Harrison Juvenile Filly Stakes.



Arabian Jockey Club President Kathy Smoke (left) presents award to Sharon Clark. Photo by Jim McCue/Maryland Jockey Club.

**Dixies Valentine** received the 2012 World Champion Mare Award during the Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Awards, which were awarded for the first time this year to recognize women in Arabian racing and presented along with the Darley Awards. Dixies Valentine has twice before been named a Champion Arabian Filly of the Year.

Sharon Clark's Rigbie Farm is the state's only USDA/MDA authorized Contagious Equine Metritis Quarantine Station, which receives and holds horses under federal import quarantine while extensive testing is conducted to ensure they are disease free.



Joe and JoAnn Thomson (with family & staff), owners of Winbak Farm & Roll With Joe. Photo by Jim McCue/MJC

### Night of Champion

**Sponsors:** Barrett's Hunt Valley; Clipper City Brewing Company; Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association; GalaCloths/Dulany Noble; Sasha's 49 Cafe; Maryland Jockey Club; Maryland Standardbred Race Fund; Maryland Wineries Association; Ocean Downs; Penn National Gaming; Wegmans Hunt Valley.



## Merlin - National Therapy Horse of the Year

**May 2012** — Merlin, a 32-year-old therapy horse who has helped hundreds of special needs children and adults deal with emotional issues and traumas, was named the American Morgan Horse Association's "National Therapy Horse of the Year." A retired show horse, Merlin is still the lead horse in the stable at Rose of Sharon Equestrian School in Glen Arm (Baltimore County). His owner, Joan Marie Twining, is founder and executive director of the school. Because Merlin no longer leaves the farm, a delegation from the MHIB presented him with the Touch of Class award at his stall.



*"It is a privilege to be with this gifted and caring horse who has quietly gone about his business of helping people and making a real difference in the lives of people in need. Merlin represents not only the very best of the equine species, he is truly a role model for all of us to emulate."*

— MHIB Chairman Jim Steele



## Five National Dressage Champions



**June 2012** — Three 2011 U.S. Dressage Federation gold medalists, a national coach and one horse who have helped propel Maryland's dressage community into the national spotlight received the June Touch of Class Awards. They are:

**Jaralyn Finn** of Montgomery County (left), a USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze medalist, graduated with distinction from the USDF "L" judge program. She has been teaching and training since 1993 and is based out of Wyndham Oaks dressage facility in Boyds. She and her husband also own Shepherd's Run Farm, a small private training farm in Poolesville.



## Five Dressage Champions (Continued)

**Christine Betz** of Thurmont (Frederick County), a USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze medalist, trained and competed successfully in all the sport horse disciplines and regularly coaches riders in horse sports. She trains and teaches out of Dark Horse Dressage in Frederick County.

**Susanne Hassler** of Chesapeake City (Cecil County), a USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze medalist, became an international dressage competitor in 2004 when she rode Royal Prince to a fourth place finish at the World Championships for Young Horses in Germany, the highest placing result for the U.S. to date. She and her husband Scott Hassler run Hassler Dressage.

**Scott Hassler** (Cecil County), who served as National Coach for the U.S. Dressage Federation for three terms, signed a new contract to remain as national coach through 2015. He also founded the U.S. Equestrian Federation Young Horse program that has been producing excellent results over the past decade.

**Royal Prince**, stabled at Hilltop Farm (Cecil County) and owned by Jane MacElree, has been the USEF Dressage Breeding Sire of the Year every year from 2008 to 2011, a distinction based on the success of his offspring in the show ring. Royal Prince was also a successful international dressage competitor.



*(From left) Christine Betz, Scott Hassler and Susanne Hassler accept their awards during the Potomac Valley Dressage Association's Ride For Life & Dancing Horse Challenge at Prince George's Equestrian Center.*



Royal Prince and rider Chris Hickey.  
*Photo by Susan J. Stickle*



## Champions in Jousting - Maryland's State Sport



**July 2012** – Top honors in three of the four divisions in the 2011 National Jousting Tournament belong to Marylanders. Touch of Class Awards were presented to them at the St. Margaret's Joust in Annapolis.

**Corey Minnick**, 30, of Washington County, took first place in the professional division — his third such national title. Several members of Minnick's family compete in jousting competitions around the state.

**Mikayla Miller**, 13, of Calvert County, took first in the Amateur division. She started jousting at a local riding stable four years ago. She is an upcoming freshman at Calvert High School.



**Anthony Reinhold**, 17, of Caroline County, took first in the novice division in only his second year of jousting. He won his title on a horse borrowed from friends.



*Photos of Minnick (top), Miller (left), Reinhold (right) courtesy of the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association.*



## Polocrosse - A Combination of Polo & Lacrosse

Two polocrosse champions accepted August Touch of Class Awards. Since 2008, **Dori Johnson** of Prince Georges County has played on winning national teams that are sanctioned by the American Polocrosse Association. In 2011 she played on the U.S. World Cup team. Currently, Dori coaches the U.S. Polocrosse traveling international youth (under 23) team. **Caroline Gardiner** of Calvert County has played on teams winning many local and regional competitions. In 2012, she was selected as a member of the American Polocrosse Association national youth (under 23) team that competes in national and international tournaments.



Dori Johnson



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## Secretary's Citations Recognizing Equine Excellence in Maryland



**S**ecretary Citations are presented to projects or people who have accomplished a significant statewide achievement or milestone. Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance presented citations to three equine recipients during the last year. They are:

**The Lisbon Horse Parade** (Howard County): More than 250 horses participate in the 1.9 mile parade through town which displays the pleasure of horses, brings the community closer together, and benefits the local food bank.

**The Totally Thoroughbred Horse Show** at Pimlico Race Course, organized by the Maryland Jockey Club, showed people that Thoroughbreds can have occupations after the racetrack. The inaugural event drew nearly 300 horses, significantly more than expected. Governor Martin O'Malley declared the day of the event "The Totally Thoroughbred Horse Show Day" in Maryland.

**Harness Racing Driver John Wagner** became the 80th harness driver in the sport to reach 5,000 wins. He is based out of Rosecroft Raceway in Prince George's County but hit the milestone while piloting veteran trotter Marong A to victory at Dover Downs in February 2012.

### **Maryland Horse Industry Board**

*A Program of the  
Maryland Department of Agriculture  
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