

# PACESSETTER

The Official Newsletter of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of NJ

## President's Letter



**SBOANJ President**  
Mark Ford

Dear Members,

We delayed distribution of the Pacesetter because of the ever-changing news that has filled our lives in recent weeks. These are challenging times, both as an industry and a nation. The spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has affected us all, personally and professionally, and developments related to the pandemic have arisen not even day to day but hour by hour.

I hope everyone is well and everyone is taking the recommended precautions to help us emerge from this crisis in as safe and timely manner as possible. Our industry has suffered devastating losses as a result of COVID-19, with the deaths of John Brennan and four members of the Fusco family at the forefront of news coverage, and our thoughts are with all those affected by the virus.

With the suspension of racing, these are difficult times for all involved in the sport. The SBOANJ staff is working diligently to locate programs at the state and federal levels that might be of assistance to those in need. I urge everyone to visit our website, [sboanj.com](http://sboanj.com), frequently for the latest information regarding these programs as well as any news related to racing as it becomes available. I also would like to thank Amy and Stacy Butewicz for coordinating a food-assistance program for our industry. Again, information can be found on our website.

The SBOANJ office remains open for regular business hours during the week but is closed to visitors. Our

staff remains committed to providing the best service possible. We are working to make sure all business, including insurance claims, continue to be handled in a timely manner. We ask anyone needing to make payments or submit paperwork to the SBOANJ use the U.S. Mail or deposit items in the drop box located at the office's front door.

Do not hesitate to call the office at 732-462-2357 if you need assistance or have any questions.

I know one of the most difficult aspects of the governor's statewide stay-at-home order is the uncertainty of when it will be lifted, particularly in terms of getting back to racing. We are working with the Racing Commission, other state officials, and the racetracks on a proposal to return to action as soon as possible within guidelines of safe practices, which would include screening programs at training centers and racetracks. This will require coordinated efforts at multiple levels not to mention the cooperation of all our horsemen and horsewomen. Several jurisdictions in the U.S. continue to offer racing and hopefully can serve as models for New Jersey, as well as provide precedent to reopen the tracks, at least to the racing's participants. The final decision will rest with the governor.

Coverage of COVID-19 has mostly pushed aside the news from the recent federal indictments against more than two dozen people in thoroughbred and standardbred racing. The SBOANJ would like to reiterate to everyone that our organization's top concern is the integrity of racing and the proper care of all animals competing in our sport. Meadowlands Chairman Jeff Gural has made protecting the sport from wrongdoing a top priority at his tracks and we join those in commending him for his efforts.

As I close, I would like to say I've seen our members work together successfully in the past to revitalize our industry and I ask everyone to continue working together now to help us come out of this difficult time in the best possible way. Please follow the recommended guidelines for a healthy workplace. Remain safe, remain strong, and remain well.

*Mark Ford*



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# SBOANJ 2020 SPONSORED RACES

RACE	CONDITION	LOCATION	DATE
Garden State Trot	2-year-old colt trotters NJ sired	Meadowlands Racetrack	07/10/20
Garden State Trot	2-year-old filly trotters NJ sired	Meadowlands Racetrack	07/10/20
Home Grown Pace	2-year-old colt pacers NJ sired, foaled, SDF	Meadowlands Racetrack	07/31/20
Home Grown Pace	2-year-old filly pacers NJ sired, foaled, SDF	Meadowlands Racetrack	07/31/20
Futurity #54	2-year-old trotters NJ sired	Freehold Raceway	10/16/20
Garden State Trot	3-year-old filly trotters NJ sired	Freehold Raceway	09/11/20
Garden State Trot	3-year-old colt trotters NJ sired	Freehold Raceway	09/18/20
Futurity #55	3-year-old trotters NJ sired	Freehold Raceway	10/02/20
Home Grown Pace	3-year-old pacers NJ sired, foaled, SDF	Freehold Raceway	09/26/20

## 2020 NJSS PREMIER DATES

### **PACERS**

#### **2YO COLT PACE**

Meadowlands: (2 Legs & Final) Fri. July 24; Fri. August 14; Fri. August 21-

#### **Final 2YO FILLY PACE**

Meadowlands: (2 Legs & Final) Fri. July 24; Fri. August 14; Fri. August 21-

#### **Final 3YO COLT PACE**

Meadowlands: (2 Legs & Final) Fri. May 15; Fri. May 22; Fri. May 29-Final

#### **3YO FILLY PACE**

Meadowlands: (2 Legs & Final) Fri. May 15; Fri. May 22; Fri. May 29-Final

### **TROTTERS**

#### **2YO COLT TROT**

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# SBOANJ BREEDERS INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey will again offer a resident mare rebate as well as pacing stallion incentive program in 2020.

SBOANJ membership is required to qualify for all programs.

The resident mare rebate will pay up to \$500 to owners of mares bred in 2020. A mare does not have to be bred to a New Jersey stallion but must reside in New Jersey for 150 days up to and including foaling. Proof of foaling in New Jersey via U.S. Trotting Association registration is required. The mare rebate program will be capped at \$100,000.

The pacing stallion incentive program will rebate 15 percent of the advertised stud fee, up to \$1,500, to the breeder of record as per the breeding contract. Stallions must breed at least 5 mares to be eligible for the rebate. Private treaties will receive a \$250 rebate. The pacing stallion rebate program will be capped at \$150,000.

Forms will be available on the SBOANJ website.

Please call the SBOANJ office at 732-462-2357 with any questions.

## 2020 NEW JERSEY STALLIONS

### PACERS

BETTOR'S WISH.....	\$10,000
GIRL CRAZY.....	\$1,000
GREAT VINTAGE.....	\$2,000
LAZARUS . .....	\$10,000
LIS MARA.....	\$2,500
MYSTERIOUS MOMENT.....	\$1,000
NUTCRACKER SWEET.....	PRIVATE
PHILOS HANOVER.....	PRIVATE
SUNFIRE BLUE CHIP.....	\$2,000

### TROTTERS

HAMMERTIME.....	FREE
MUSCLE HILL.....	PRIVATE
NORTHERN KID.....	\$500
SIX PACK.....	\$10,000
TACTICAL LANDING.....	\$15,000
TRIXTON.....	\$15,000
WALNER.....	\$20,000

For more information visit [sboanj.com](http://sboanj.com) and view the stallions page.



The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey offer our deepest condolences to the Fusco family.

The devastation to one family is unfathomable and particularly personal as the Fusco's are a large part of our local racing community.

# COMMUNITY FOCUS: AMY AND STACY BUTEWICZ

Amy and Stacy Butewicz have been around horses for nearly their entire lives. Amy began riding at the age of 4 and Stacy followed in her older sister's footsteps. Several years ago, they were introduced to harness racing and fell in love with the Standardbred, the sport, and the people.



Last week, with cooperation from the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey, Amy and Stacy Butewicz announced a food assistance program for those in the industry in the state. Susanne Kovacic photo.

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closing of New Jersey's racetracks earlier this month, Amy and Stacy knew there would be people in the harness racing industry in need of assistance because of the loss of income. Last week, they announced a food assistance program for throughout the state for those in the Standardbred industry.

The program allows an individual or family to obtain a food assistance bag, every other week. The bags will include non-perishables, canned goods, household products and more. As of Tuesday morning, 13 individuals/families were enrolled in the program.

Stacy and Amy hope the program reduces the financial impact on people, who must feed not only themselves and their families, but their horses.

To register for the program, please use either following method, and include your name, address and training center/stable location. Requests will be kept confidential.

TEXT "ASSIST" to 732.887.5649.

EMAIL "ASSIST" to [albutewicz@gmail.com](mailto:albutewicz@gmail.com).

Items will be delivered directly to individuals/families or placed in a secure location for pick up.

Arrangements also can be made for anyone wanting to donate dry goods or supermarket gift cards by contacting the above number or email address.

## 63RD ANNUAL NEW JERSEY BREEDERS LUNCHEON

On Sunday (Jan. 26), the New Jersey Department of Agriculture held its 63rd annual New Jersey Breeders Awards Luncheon at Hilton Gardens Inn in Hamilton.

SBOANJ directors in attendance were Mark Mullen, Anthony Romano, Mike Klau and Executive Administrator Al Ochsner. Taylor Palmer also attended the function.



SBOANJ director Mark Mullen and Executive Administrator Al Ochsner along with Secretary of Agriculture Douglas Fisher present Trainer Richard "Nifty" Norman awards for Evident Beauty.

award as trainer of the Trixton filly. Evident Beauty was bred by White Birch Farm of Allentown, N.J.

Evident Beauty was awarded the New Jersey Sire Stakes Horse of the Year and the Standardbred of the Year honors by a joint presentation from the SBOANJ and the NJSS committee for owners Melvin Hartman, Little E and R A W Equine. Richard "Nifty" Norman accepted the

Mike Klau from the Breeders Committee of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey awarded Stefan Balazsi's Order By Stable as the 2019 New Jersey Standardbred Breeder of the Year.

The Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas H. Fisher, and Dr. Karyn Malinowski, with Rutgers, both presented Jacqueline Ingrassia with the Governor's Trophy as Horseperson of the Year, for all of her wonderful accomplishments as a horsewoman both on and off the racetrack. Ingrassia is a well-known driver, trainer, and owner in the New Jersey Standardbred industry, but she also rides and shows for pleasure.



Jacqueline Ingrassia accepts her award from Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas H. Fisher and Dr. Karyn Malinowski.

The SBOANJ congratulates all of the award winners for their accomplishments in 2019.

# NORTH AMERICAN HARNESS HORSE ALLIANCE HELD THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING

On Saturday, February 22, 2020 the North American Harness Horse Alliance held their first official meeting.

Founding Members Consist of: OHHA of Canada, SBOA of New Jersey, SOA of New York, and OHHA of Ohio.

The NAHHA sees an opportunity to unite the Harness Racing Community.

NAHHA wants to sustain and grow the Harness Racing Industry in North America and make sure that Harness Horse Racing Members have a strong voice with race tracks, regulators and governmental agencies at all levels.

There are no membership fees to join and each organization will help in the resolution of the issues and have one vote.

To become a member please contact: Alfred Ochsner Executive Administrator of the SBOA NJ at 732-462-0411. Email: [aochsner@sboanj.com](mailto:aochsner@sboanj.com) or NAHHA at [info@harnessalliance.com](mailto:info@harnessalliance.com)



Left to right: Anthony Romano of the SBOA of NJ, Joseph Faraldo of the SOA of NY, Renee Mancino of OHHA of Ohio, Brian Tropea of the OHHA of Canada, and Alfred Ochsner of the SBOA of NJ. Missing from photo are Mark Ford of the SBOA OF NJ and James Whelan of the OHHA of Canada.

## GOVERNOR MURPHY'S EXECUTIVE ORDER #104

The New Jersey Racing Commission held a meeting at Monmouth Park on March 18 where Governor Murphy's Executive Order #104 relating to the current Coronavirus outbreak was addressed. Effective March 16, 2020, all three New Jersey race-tracks, Freehold Raceway, Meadowlands, and Monmouth Park are closed until the Governor either revokes or modifies his order.

The minimum days closed could be 30 but due to the current conditions, the number would seem to be much greater. The SBOA will evaluate the Coronavirus outbreak mid-April to determine the next course of action. It is very important at this time we all work together, the SBOANJ will be scheduling meetings with both harness tracks and NJRC to establish priorities and possible economic relief for the horseman.

## DUNN, HARRIS WIN FALL MEET TITLES AT BIG M

Dexter Dunn and Andrew Harris were the leading driver and trainer, respectively, at the recently concluded Fall Meeting at the Meadowlands.



Dunn, who was recently named the United States Harness Writers Association's Driver of the Year, topped all pilots with 47 wins from just 199 starts, good for a gaudy win percentage of 24.

During the 28-night stand, Dunn – who took a handful of programs off – registered three wins on six occasions while

scoring four times four times. On Dec. 15, the 30-year-old New Zealand native had his biggest night of the meet by making five winner's circle visits.

Yannick Gingras finished second in the standings with 37 wins while Andy McCarthy, who scored 12 times last weekend (Dec. 26-28), finished third with 34.

Harris, who teamed with McCarthy to win three times on Dec. 27, finished at the top of the trainer standings with 18 victories. Ron Burke (14) and Nifty Norman (12) rounded out the top three.



# SBOANJ REBATE REMINDERS

The SBOANJ would like to remind everyone that you must have a current membership and a W9 on file in order to receive rebates administered by the SBOANJ. These include breeders awards, stallion rebates and mare resident rebates. Both membership and W9 forms can be found on the SBOANJ website.

For more information on rebate programs visit [sboanj.com](http://sboanj.com) or contact the office at 732-462-2357.



TrotPAC trustees continue to attend many political functions to ensure the long-term viability of Standardbred racing and breeding in New Jersey. Recently the trustees attended functions for Craig Coughlin, Louis Greenwald, Dawn Addiego, Jon Bramnick, Benjie Wimberly, Dan Benson, Tom Kean and Bob Auth. TrotPAC really appreciates all the support it received this past year especially the generous financial donations. Without these contributions, TrotPAC would not be able to preserve the political position it currently has. Your help keeps our industry's needs at the forefront of important government officials.

**25TH ANNUAL**

# SAVE THE DATE

# SBOANJ GOLF OUTING

**MAY 26**  
**TUESDAY**



**NOB HILL GOLF CLUB**  
1 Shinnecock Drive  
Manalapan, NJ 07726

**PUTTING CONTEST • LONGEST DRIVE CONTEST  
PRIZES • FREE DRINKS • LUNCH & DINNER BUFFET**

Contact the SBOANJ office at 732-462-2357 to reserve your spot. Sponsorship packages available. All proceeds to benefit TrotPAC and the Horseman's Benevolent fund.



## MEADOWLANDS ADDRESSES HORSES TRAINED BY INDICTED TRAINERS

Be advised that any horse that was being trained by a trainer named in the recent Federal indictments at the time those indictments were handed down will not be accepted to race at The Meadowlands, Tioga or Vernon Downs in overnights or stakes for 60 days from the date that the tracks reopen for live racing.

## FEDERAL DISASTER LOAN ASSISTANCE FORMS

Disaster Loans available for Businesses, Private Nonprofits, Homeowners and Renters. You are able to download the application relevant to you to print, complete and mail. Visit [sboanj.com](http://sboanj.com) for more information.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO RYDER AND WEINGARTNER

The Chris Ryder trainee Bettor's Wish won the Dan Patch Award for 3-year-old pacing colt of the year. Bettor's Wish drew 144 votes out of 147 after having a season with 13 wins and six seconds in 19 starts bring him the top earnings honor of all North American Standardbreds of \$1.64 million. His victories included the Carl Milstein Memorial, Art Rooney Pace, a division of the Tattersalls Pace, the Matron, and Kentucky Sire Stakes championship.



The Bettor's Delight-Lifetime Star colt was bred by Breeder of the Year Britany Farms; owned by Bettors Wish Partners, Fair Island Farm Inc., Bella Racing Ltd., and trainer Chris Ryder; and driven by Driver of the Year Dexter Dunn.

The awards banquet also celebrated the newest Communicator's Hall of Fame honoree Ken Weingartner. Weingartner, first visited a racetrack pushed by his father in a stroller, graduated from Lycoming College and then worked in the central Pennsylvania area before returning to his native New Jersey.



His column "Horse Play" in the Allentown (NJ) Morning Press was honored in 2001 by the New Jersey Chapter of USHWA and brought him to the attention of the USTA, for whom he has worked since 2002.

In 2007 he was voted the Golden Pen Award by the Standardbred Media and Marketing Association, and was doubly-honored in 2015 by USHWA's Monticello-Goshen Chapter and by Harness Horsemen International. Weingartner serves as the Chair of USHWA's Journalism Awards Committee and is co-chair of its Hirt Sports Media Workshop Committee.

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# ATTENTION NEW JERSEY TRAINERS AND HORSEMAN IN NEED OF EMPLOYEES

If you are in a position where you are short-handed and need help during this critical time, the SBOANJ would like to help you.

Please contact us at [info@sboanj.com](mailto:info@sboanj.com) or call 732-462-2357 to let us know what type of employees you are in search of. We will gladly post positions needed on our website with any contact information you would like to give and help you get the word out.

# Vendor Discount Participants



**dillsfeed.com • 732-462-2251**  
263 Throckmorton St.  
Freehold, NJ 07728



**embroideryunl.com • 508-485-5522**  
449 Boston Post Rd. East Ste #5,  
Marlborough, MA 01752



**horze.com • 877-647-4422**  
Storefront at the  
Meadowlands Racetrack



**freeholdraceway.com • 732-462-3800**  
130 Park Avenue  
Freehold, NJ 07728



**knobhillbowling.com • 732-446-6001**  
363 NJ-33,  
Manalapan Township, NJ 07726



**732-780-1295**  
91 Highland Ridge Rd.  
Manalapan, New Jersey 07726



**playmeadowlands.com • 201-460-4079**  
1 Racetrack Dr.  
East Rutherford, NJ 07073



**pantanonursery.com • 732-786-8503**  
145 Freehold Rd.  
Manalapan, NJ 07726



Shop online @ [saddlesource.com](http://saddlesource.com)  
**732-446-4330**  
29 Park Ave. 282 Rt 539  
Englishtown, NJ 07726 / Cream Ridge, NJ 08514



**609-223-0421**  
1 Allison Way  
Allentown, NJ 08501



**rudyscafeandrestaurant.com**  
**732-851-4188**  
363 NJ-33, Manalapan Township, NJ 07726



**knobhillbowling.com**  
**732-446-6001**  
363 NJ-33, Manalapan Township, NJ 07726

**Please contact the SBOANJ office if you have a service you would like to offer.**



64 Business Route 33  
Manalapan, NJ 07726

## STANDBRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

64 Business Route 33, Manalapan, NJ 07726 Phone: 732-462-2357 Fax: 732-409-0741

Email: [info@sboanj.com](mailto:info@sboanj.com) Website: [www.sboanj.com](http://www.sboanj.com)

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### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

New Jersey Sire Stakes  
609-292-8830

License/Fingerprint  
NJ Racing Commission

Trenton: 609-292-0613  
Freehold: 732-462-3800  
Meadowlands: 201-460-4137

NJ Trailer Ban: NJTP  
800-336-5875