

NJ HORSES TO BENEFIT WITH \$1.6 MILLION SUPPLEMENT

The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey has successfully negotiated a \$400,000 purse enhancement for the New Jersey Sire Stakes events contested at the Meadowlands in 2009 as well as a \$1.2 million supplement to overnight purses to benefit New Jersey-owned or bred horses.

The \$400,000 will be applied to the preliminary legs of the New Jersey Sire Stakes. This year's finals were already increased to \$200,000, up from \$175,000 in 2008.

"The New Jersey Sire Stakes program continues to be one of the most attractive options for owners and trainers and offers highly competitive and exciting races for the fans," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento, who spearheaded the negotiations. "The fact is these are showcases for some of the best young horses in training and a springboard for Meadowlands Pace and Hambletonian winners as well as divisional champions. We want to continue to make them a lucrative option as well. We have done so by working with the Meadowlands to infuse these additional dollars.

"The \$400,000 lifts the total New Jersey Sire Stakes distribution at the Meadowlands to an estimated \$3.5 million," Luchento noted. "This funding is from the Purse Enhancement Agreement with the casinos from which \$1,250,000 was previously dedicated to the New Jersey Sire Stakes at both Freehold and the Meadowlands in 2009. The SBOANJ felt it was important to further enrich the New Jersey Sire Stakes purses as well as the overnight program."

The New Jersey-owned or bred horses will also have prefer-

ence over all other horses in gaining entry to these races. Others may enter to fill races but will only get in if all other New Jersey horses, no matter their preference dates, have been accommodated.

"We thank the Meadowlands senior management team of Senior Vice President for Racing Lennon Register, Assistant Vice President for Racing Development & Distribution Alex Dadoyan and Director of Racing Peter Koch for their commitment to quality racing and the breeding program in New Jersey," Luchento added. The SBOANJ negotiating team included Luchento, Leo McNamara, Edward Razzetti and Bob Boni as well as Anthony Perretti from the New Jersey Sire Stakes Board of Trustees.

The New Jersey Sire Stakes season begins the weekend of May 15 and 16 with opening leg competition for three-year-old pacers. There will be two preliminary legs and a \$200,000 final for each gait and gender category. The three-year-old pacing finals will take place on May 30 with the three-year-old trotting finals sharing a super night of racing with the SBOANJ sponsored \$500,000 Anthony Abbatiello New Jersey Classic and \$200,000 Thomas D'Altrui Miss New Jersey on June 13.

For the second year, the quartet of two-year-old finals, worth a combined \$800,000, will take place on a Night of Champions which will be on July 23, at the Meadowlands. Due to the Meadowlands extending its season later into August, the two-year-olds will also have a later date for their legs and finals than in past years which could increase participation.

DEO VOLENTE WELCOMES FIRST STALLION—TELL ALL

The latest addition to the New Jersey breeding farm scene is Deo Volente.

Deo Volente, which is Latin for "God Willing," is located on 120 acres in horsey Hunterdon County. Where corn once grew, there are now lush pastures and a state-of-the-art breeding farm with 36 stalls, each with a Dutch window, opening to a covered porch.

Two 12 by 24 foaling stalls are equipped with cameras which permit viewing over the Internet while a stereo system provides calming classical music for the mares and their babies. Every feature for equine safety and comfort was included in the construction.

The first to occupy one of the four stallion stalls is \$1.5 million earner and 2007 Pacer of the Year Tell All, managed by Brittany Farms, who is standing his second season in New Jersey for a fee of \$7,500.

The palatial facility on Quakertown Road in Flemington, NJ, was conceived and built by horse owners Michael Gulotta, James Hess, John Jarka and Otis Ray of the MJG Racing Stable, Craig Lipka of Hill View Enterprises and Andy Willinger. The official opening was Hambletonian Weekend 2008.

"This property is at the top of Hunterdon County so there are great breezes all the time, and the land is perfectly suited for raising foals because of the undulating hills," Gulotta said in *The Harness Edge's* September 2008 issue. "The soil here is phenomenal."

It was success of a horse that Gulotta owned with Willinger, Lis Mara, who helped to provide the resources to build the farm with his \$2.1 million in earnings.

"He gave us the resources to build this dream and reinvigorate racing," said Gulotta of Lis Mara. "Every penny that horse made in racing – his earnings, his syndication, his Southern Hemisphere breeding rights – has been put into this venture or into charity."



Deo Volente's state of the art facilities in Flemington.

Photo courtesy of The Harness Edge

From the Desk of President Tom Luchento

There is a fresh infusion of cash this year for racing at the Meadowlands, enriching both the New Jersey Sire Stakes and a category of races designed for New Jersey-sired or owned horses.

Last year the SBOANJ went to bat to ensure that Freehold Raceway would get a slice of the casino supplement pie which included \$1.6 million for the last half of 2008.

Who would have expected that Freehold's ownership, Pennwood Racing, would have rejected that "stimulus package" because they would not accept the terms of the agreement?

The SBOANJ tried many ways to cajole them to take the money but this was Freehold's call. Our concern is our horsemen and if Freehold would not accept the funds, we wanted the Meadowlands to use them in a fashion that would support the horsemen who support New Jersey racing.

So we sat down with the management of the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority to figure out how to best help New Jersey trainers, drivers, owners and breeders and negotiated a distribution of \$400,000 toward New Jersey Sire Stakes events and \$1.2 million for overnight races for New Jersey-owned and bred horses at the Meadowlands.

In addition to working with the Meadowlands on the disposition of the Purse Enhancement Agreement funds from the casinos, the SBOANJ has reached out to a number of legislators in Trenton to seek support for the re-

lease of \$350,000 in frozen funds and the protection of an additional \$200,000 in New Jersey Sire Stakes allocations that Governor Jon Corzine has included in his budgetary cuts.

We have pointed out that this money was dedicated by legislation for the improvement of the breed and is used to fund our Green Acres races. We will continue to use both our legal and legislative resources to reclaim these funds.

While we always seem to have our share of battles to fight on the local and state level, there are calls, once again, for a national commissioner to oversee racing.

This was a topic of several panels during the Harness Congress that took place in Las Vegas in early February.

Technology is shrinking the world of racing and state boundaries are less meaningful. Perhaps the time has come to standardize rules, medication and whip use and other issues that concern our industry.

Whether from the perspective of a horseman racing in a new jurisdiction or a fan selecting from a vast menu of simulcasting options, there should not be a mystery as to the "rules of the road." But that is just where we are now.

This is and should always remain a special time of the year for those of us who love the standardbred - breeding and foaling season. With new babies on the ground, new hopes for better times and more trips to the winner's circle are in our thoughts.

STANDARD BRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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Meadowlands—201-460-4137

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800-336-5875

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH HTA & HHYF

Both Harness Tracks of America [HTA] and Harness Horse Youth Foundation [HHYF] have announced deadlines for the scholarships they administer for 2009-2010.

The Harness Tracks of America College Scholarship Fund is offering five, \$5,000 scholarships for post-secondary education for students actively involved in the sport of harness racing or to the children of harness racing professionals [living or deceased], including licensed drivers, trainers, caretakers or management officials.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit, financial need and active harness racing involvement. Applications are available by contacting Harness Tracks of America at 520-529-2525 or info@harnesstracks.com, or visiting www.harnesstracks.com.

The deadline for returning all HTA application materials is May 15, 2009. The scholarship program, begun in 1973, has made 181 grants to 125 students, dispersing a total of \$662,950.

The Harness Horse Youth Foundation has a deadline of April 30, 2009 for the Gallo Blue Chip, the Charles Bradley Memorial and the Curt Greene Memorial scholarships. Applications available on the hhyf.org website or by calling 317-867-5877.

Gallo Blue Chip Scholarship, sponsored by Martin Scharf, the owner of Gallo Blue Chip, is for a child of a harness horse trainer or caretaker licensed in New York and/or New Jersey in the year of application. The applicant, who must be at least a senior in high school, must also have been raised and/or reside in the two-state region. Students pursuing graduate degrees are not eligible. There are awards totaling \$20,000.

Charles Bradley Memorial Scholarship is for students who are children or relatives of racing officials who were members of the North American Judges & Stewards Association and/or licensed USTA pari-mutuel officials in the following categories: presiding judges, associate judges, paddock judges, and starters. The applicant must be at least a senior in high school. There are awards totaling \$500.

Curt Greene Memorial Scholarship is for students who have demonstrated a passion for harness racing and have financial need. The applicant may or may not be pursuing a career in the harness racing industry but must be at least a high school senior. There are awards totaling \$2,500.

Information on the SBOANJ-sponsored scholarship will be available in mid-March on www.sboanj.com.

YEARLINGS NAMED FOR LEGISLATORS BECK & MALONE

Two Perretti Farms yearlings have been named in honor of New Jersey state legislators Jennifer Beck and Joseph Malone.

Beckretariat, named for Senator Beck [R-12], who is from Red Bank, NJ, is a pacing filly by Rocknroll Hanover out of the broodmare Sweet Smilin' Lady. Muscles Malone, named for Assemblyman Malone [R-30] of Bordentown, NJ, is a son of trotting stallion Muscles Yankee and out of the broodmare Malexandria.

Both yearlings were bred at Perretti Farms in Cream Ridge, NJ and, according to Perretti spokesman Bob Marks, they will both be for sale in the fall.

ZIMMERMAN RESIGNS



Leon Zimmerman
Photo by Donna Noonan

Leon Zimmerman, a July 2009 inductee into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame Communicators Corner, has left his position as legislative lobbyist for the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey after more than 35 years of service.

Zimmerman said that he will continue operating the lobbying firm he launched in 1973 after working for the late Governor William Cahill, but take on new projects and clients that he has not had time to do previously. "Leon Zimmerman has been a respected and loyal member of our consulting staff for more than three decades," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento. "We all wish him the best as he pursues other ventures."

Hired as a lobbyist for the SBOANJ by Anthony Abbatiello, Zimmerman has been a leading spokesman for efforts to improve standardbred racing and the breeding industry in New Jersey.

On the State Capitol scene in Trenton for 42 years, Zimmerman is one of the deans of the lobbying corps and considered by state officials as a major voice of horse racing.

MEADOWLANDS STAKES

Date	Day	Est Purse	Upcoming Finals
3/12/09	Thur	\$60,000	Night Styles
3/15/09	Sun	80,000	Horse & Groom
3/20/09	Fri	135,000	Overbid
3/21/09	Sat	84,000	Matt's Scooter
3/21/09	Sat	95,000	Four Leaf Clover
4/2/09	Thur	70,000	Jersey Girls
4/10/09	Fri	130,000	Su Mac Lad
4/11/09	Sat	50,000	Strada Memorial
4/15/09	Wed	65,000	Blossom
4/16/09	Thur	45,000	SNY Series
4/18/09	Sat	70,000	Robert J. Suslow
4/30/09	Thur	45,000	Father Foley



The 2009 New Jersey Stallion Register is now available in print and online at www.sboanj.com

LUCHENTO ADDRESSES RACING CONGRESS

SBOANJ President Tom Luchento cited the New Jersey Horse Alliance as an example of a means to bring various equine factions together when he participated in a panel entitled "Going Along & Getting Along" at the Racing Congress held at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Luchento's panel, hosted by Stan Bergstein, also included Richard Shapiro, former chairman of the California Horse Racing Board; John Walzak, formerly of the Ontario Harness Horse Association, and Phil Langley of Balmoral-Maywood and president of the US Trotting Association.

Luchento discussed the economic impact of racing, a strategy that needs to be used with government officials, pointing out that in the study completed by Rutgers University in 2007, the equine industry in New Jersey represented more than \$1.1 billion annually.



TRIO HONORED AT CONGRESS

Three New Jerseyans – Moira Fanning, Leon Zimmerman and Carol Hodes – were among the honorees saluted at the Harness Racing Congress Night of Stars banquet on February 4, 2009 at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Fanning, the publicity director of the Hambletonian Society, received the Harness Tracks of America Distinguished Service Award.

Fanning, who is from Jackson, NJ, is married to trainer Tom Fanning and mother to Veronica, 16, and Caroline, 13.



Carol Hodes [left] & Moira Fanning
Photo by Donna Noonan

Zimmerman, a former newspaper reporter who recently concluded a 35-year career as the lobbyist for the SBOANJ, was presented his ring as a 2009 inductee into the Communicators Corner of the Hall of Fame.

Hodes received the Harness Horsemen International's Clyde Hirt Media Award.

A resident of Old Bridge, NJ, Hodes was a former sports writer for the Star-Ledger and was media relations director at the Meadowlands Racetrack before being named publicity director for the SBOANJ in 2007.



Tom Luchento [far right] speaking on a panel at the Racing Congress. Photos by Mark Hall/USTA

FREEHOLD DROPS STAKES

On February 20, Freehold Raceway announced that it had cancelled several of its 2009 stakes, including the James B. Dancer Memorial and Helen Dancer Filly for three-year-old pacers, and terminated ownership rights to the Battle of Freehold and the Molly Pitcher for two-year-old pacers.

Also cancelled were three late closing series, the Frank Rubinetti, the Swing Back and the Windshield Wiper.

"In an effort to maintain our current purse structure, Freehold has cancelled several races on our 2009 calendar," said Freehold Racing Secretary Karen Fagliarone. "We hope to be in a position to restore the Dancers and the late closing races in 2010.

"All other previously scheduled stakes, including New Jersey Sire Stakes and Green Acres, will go on as scheduled in 2009," added Fagliarone.

The SBOANJ-sponsored stakes such as the Charles Smith, Harold Dancer and NJ Futurities will remain as scheduled.

The Battle of Freehold and the Molly Pitcher, formerly known as the Garden State Stakes for two-year-olds, were originated by Freehold in 1983.

As provided in the racing conditions, nominators to these events will receive refunds of their fees.

For more information, contact Freehold Raceway at 732-462-3800 or the Hambletonian Society at 609-371-2211.

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DEWEY & FAIR WINDS COLLECT NJ AWARDS

New Jersey Standardbred of the Year Deweycheatumnhowe and Breeder of the Year Fair Winds Farm were among the honorees at the New Jersey Equine Awards Banquet on January 25, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel in Freehold, NJ.



Ray Schnittker accepts the NJ Standardbred Horse of the Year trophy from Ann Dorset of the Department of Ag.

Mrs. Ann Dorsett, equine representative of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture, presented the Horse of the Year Award to Ray Schnittker, trainer, driver and co-owner of Deweycheatumnhowe.

Dewey, the 2008 Hambletonian winner, is a two-time Dan Patch Award winner and 2008 Trotter of the Year.

Mark Mullen accepted the Breeder of the Year Award on behalf of Fair Winds Farm of Cream Ridge, NJ from SBOANJ Breeders Committee Chairman Marty O'Hare.



Mark Mullen [right] of Fair Winds Farm receives the Breeder of the Year Award from SBOANJ Director Marty O'Hare.

A crowd of 181 attended the banquet which also honored the horses selected as champions of the various racing and competitive breed groups in New Jersey, including standardbreds.

New Jersey Sire Stakes honorees, voted by the NJSS Board of Trustees were Horse of the Year Dial Or dial [2yo Colt Pacer], Twist N Clout [2yo Filly Pacer], Muscle Hill [2yo Colt Trotter], I Wanted Wings [2yo Filly Trotter], McCedes [3yo Colt Pacer], Cheyenne Trish [3yo Filly Pacer], Spam Spade [3yo Colt Trotter] and Muscle Shirt [3yo Filly Trotter].

FINISHING LINES ...NEWS & NOTES

- Freehold Raceway received approval from the New Jersey Racing Commission to amend its live racing schedule. Freehold will be dropping three Tuesdays in March and adding three Wednesdays in May. The dates being dropped are March 10, 17 and 24. The added dates are May 6, 13 and 20.
- John Campbell, harness racing's all-time leading money earning driver, surpassed \$260 million in February of 2009.
- Get well wishes to trainer Frank Ingrassia who is recuperating from shoulder joint replacement surgery.
- The sboanj.com website is now averaging more than 10,000 visitors and 100,000 hits per month.



SBOANJ DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT: DENNIS LANE

The first horse Dennis Lane owned was named Big Return. A more appropriate name, Lane points out, would have been No Return.

Still, that disappointment 30 years ago did not discourage Lane from continuing his enthusiasm for harness racing as an owner, breeder, fan and member of the Board of Directors of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey.



Dennis Lane

Lane, who resides in Paramus, NJ, was 11 years old when his aunt and uncle took him to the races for the first time.

"I loved it," he said. "Even then I said one day I would own one."

After he graduated Dwight Morrow High School in Englewood, NJ, Lane pursued his studies at

Tampa University and Farleigh Dickinson University but was lured into the world of banking before he completed a degree.

"I was manager of the Transit Department at Peoples Trust and had 73 people working for me," he recalled, adding with a laugh that he was making \$80 a week.

His career switched to advertising and graphic arts, working for his father, and then he starting his own business, Gramercy Lane Offset of New York City, in 1972.

"We did ads for newspapers and magazines," he explained. "We did posters and record jackets, too. Our clients included Saks Fifth Avenue and Columbia Records."

In the early 1980s, Lane's stable of horses topped two dozen and he dabbled in training as well.

"I loved jogging horses, warming them up to race," he said.

When he merged his company with another and retired around 2000, it afforded Lane more time to devote to harness racing and the SBOANJ.

He now serves on seven SBOANJ committees – finance, benevolence, owners, building and grounds, special events, website and public relations, and insurance – and chairs four of them.

"The SBOANJ is a great organization and I wanted to give my time to the horsemen," he explained. "We've been working hard to keep racing afloat in New Jersey. We need slots or sports betting to supplement us and, in turn, provide a great deal of revenue for the state."

Lane, a longtime season's ticket holder for the Jets and Giants, met one of his best friends through harness racing – fellow board member Eddie Razzetti.

"He's like a brother to me, that's how good a friend he is," said Lane. "I have a lot of respect for the man. We meet at the track for dinner on Saturday nights and root for each other's horses."

Lane has had good success racing his homebred foals out of the Falcon Seelster mare Plaything. Four of those offspring – including Play For Real and Foolish Grin – have combined earnings of nearly \$500,000.

Plaything's 2005 daughter of Artiscap, Jills Playmate, is named for Lane's 33-year-old daughter, Jill, who works for the Montville school system.

CODEY RESIGNS AS FREEHOLD GM & PRESIDENT

Donald R. Codey Jr., president and general manager of Freehold Raceway since 2001, resigned his position on February 10, 2009.

Prior to Freehold, Codey served as assistant director at the New Jersey Racing Commission (1991-1995) and general manager of Rosecroft Raceway and Ocean Downs (1995-2000). He was a past vice president of Harness Tracks of America.

"I appreciate all the opportunities afforded to me during my tenure at Freehold Raceway," said Codey. "I will have great memories of Freehold's loyal fan base and many dedicated employees as well as our terrific and professional horsemen."

Under Codey's direction, Freehold's first Off-Track Wagering location was opened in Toms River in April 2008, the third such facility to open in the state of New Jersey.

"We appreciate Don's many efforts on behalf of Freehold Raceway," said Chris McErlean, vice president/racing Penn National Gaming Inc.. "His many friends and colleagues wish him the best in future endeavors."

No replacement for Codey has been named by Pennwood.

SPRING 2009 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Mar 10	Board Meeting	Apr 14	Board Meeting
Mar 21	NJ Jr Breeder & Farmer Symposium @ Rutgers	Apr 22	NJ Racing Commission, Freehold Raceway
Mar 28-29	Horses 2009—Rutgers Equine Science Center	Apr 28	Insurance Meeting
Mar 31	Insurance Meeting		



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THE SPRING 2009 ISSUE OF THE PACESETTER ...



The standardbred racing community was well represented at the 52nd annual New Jersey Equine Breeder Awards Dinner on January 25, 2009.

Among those accepting an award for a New Jersey Sire Stakes divisional champion were the Millers — trainer Julie and driver Andy for their trotter, Spam Spade. They were accompanied by their son, TJ, who is 11, and daughter Olivia, who is nine.

Presenting the award was NJSS Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Catherine Stearns Medich [center].

The Millers own Spam Spade, the NJSS Three-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year, who banked more than \$200,000 in 2008, winning the \$110,000 Charles I. Smith Trot, the \$85,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Final, both at Freehold, and the Bluegrass Stakes at Lexington's Red Mile.

For more on the awards dinner, see page five.

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