



Horse Park Happenings

Volume I, No. 2,

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“There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.”
Winston Churchill

Welcome to the second issue of our newsletter. We hope you're all enjoying the fabulous weather. It's hard to believe that August is here already.

NEWS FLASH! *The NYHP, Inc's summer fundraiser will be held Wednesday, August 15, 2007 from 6:30 to 8:30PM at the Beresford Gallery on Union Street, directly across from the Reading Room. We have lots of lovely donations for the silent auction of racing memorabilia and a real Fasig-Tipton auctioneer for the live “horse” auction spoof. Donation is \$40 at the door. Don't miss out on all the fun. Come and bring your friends, enjoy liquid refreshments and canapes, bid on some unique and wonderful racing memorabilia and/or bid on a “horse”. You can also have your picture taken with famous jockeys (autographed, too), meet some of the NYHP, Inc. Board of Directors and learn more about our plans for bringing a horse park to New York State.*

One of the goals of our newsletter is to keep people up to date on what we are doing. We also hope to educate people about the impact the horse industry has on the economy as well as tell you about other horse parks around the country. This issue will be concentrate on giving you information about the impact of the horse industry on New York State.

Many of you may have seen the recent release from the New York Agricultural Statistics Services (NASS) telling us that as of December 31, 2005 New York State's horses now have an inventory value of \$1.83 BILLION. Saratoga County is still the number 1 county in the state with 11,000 equines with a total value of \$250.5 million. Dutchess County ranked 2nd with 9500; Orange County ranked 3rd with 8500 and Erie County ranked 4th with 7900.

People often mistakenly think that a horse park will benefit only wealthy horse owners. Nothing could be further from the truth. Studies show that, approximately 45% of all horse owners have an annual income between \$25,000 and \$75,000. Only 18% have incomes over \$100,000. The American Horse Council estimates that one in every 35 Americans is involved in some way with horses. Together, the 7.1 million horse owners nationally contribute over \$100 BILLION annually to the US Gross Domestic Product. A New York Horse Park will financially benefit the community and the state by bringing more of the money spent directly on horse-related activities to this geographic area. It will also increase the demand/need for services and supplies which support those activities as well as preserving open space/green space.

According to the American Horse Council Foundation's 2005 Economic Impact Report of the New York Horse Industry, showing and recreational activities involve approximately 6 times the number of horses than the number involved in racing. More horses are involved in the recreational segment of the industry and while recreational events/activities may not always be as flashy as their racing and competition counterparts, recreation events contribute significantly to the State's economy. The New York Horse Council sponsors an overnight trail ride at Brookfield (Madison County) each year which is estimated to provide a direct and indirect economic impact on the region of approximately \$985,000.

This same report puts the economic impact of the horse industry on New York State at \$2.4 billion, \$1.4 billion from horse racing and \$947 million from showing, competitions and other equine activities. The horse industry generates approximately \$124 million in annual taxes, of which \$88 million is paid to state government and \$13 million to local government. The horse industry is inextricably linked to other related and unrelated industries for services and supplies in order to sustain and prosper; local, regional and national levels of government are partially dependent on the taxes generated by horse industry activities.



Horse Park of the Month: Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY.

The lands that have become the Kentucky Horse Park was at one time owned by Lamon Harkness and called Walnut Hall. Walnut Hall became one of the world's largest and best known Standardbred farms. During the time that Mr. Harkness owned the farm, it increased in size from 450 acres to 2000 acres. The Big Barn, which still stands, was built in 1897, is 476 feet long with 52 stalls and a sales area complete with auctioneer's block. The farm passed down through the family with Mary Edwards receiving the section that eventually became the Kentucky Horse Park.

Bought by the Commonwealth of Kentucky for 2.7 Million dollars, Kentucky Horse Park, the world's only park dedicated to man's relationship with the horse, opened to the public in 1972 as a tourist attraction which has also developed into an international equine competition venue. The park, which currently encompasses 1200 acres, is host, annually, to the ROLEX 3-day event every May. KHP will also be the host for the 2010 World Equestrian Games, expected to bring more than 500,000 spectators/tourists to the Lexington, KY area. The park also hosts the National Drive, a gathering of carriage drivers from all parts of the country, every fall.

The park's attractions include the Hall of Champions where one can see famous thoroughbreds Cigar, John Henry and Da Hoss, Saddlebred Champion Gypsy Supreme and Standardbred pacers Western Dreams and Staying Together. Other legends of the park are Man O'War and Forego. Many horse champions of various breeds are buried at KHP in more than eight horse cemeteries. The KHP also has displays honoring individuals such as Isaac Burns Murphy, a former slave who is considered by many to be the greatest American jockey of all time.

Some of the other attractions include: the International Museum of the Horse; the Breeds Barn, with more than 50 horse breeds represented; and the National Horse Center. The NHC is the headquarters for state and national associations including the Kentucky Horse Council, Inc., the US Pony Club, the US Hunter Jumper Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the US Equestrian Federation, Inc., the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource, the Carriage Association of America, the US Dressage Federation and the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders

The park offers a variety of classes and programs for both adults and youngsters. There is a twice-daily Parade of Breeds, highlighting the unique characteristics of selected breeds; there are horse-drawn tours and a daily mare and foal presentation where mares and their foals are brought to the barn for up close and personal introductions to park visitors.

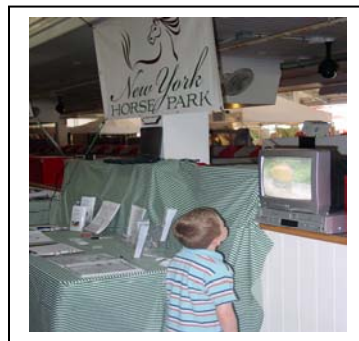
Kentucky Horse Park statistics: a 300' x 125' covered arena with seating 3000, a 260' x 135' lighted annex ring with unlimited bleacher seating, 3 more outdoor rings of varying size, 2 stadiums, one with bleacher seating for up to 10,000 spectators, a Dressage complex with 5 200' x 90' competition pads and a 490' x 60' warmup area, a cross-country course and a 1-mile steeplechase course. For the RV-er, there is a 260 site campground with paved pads, electric and water hookups, and picnic tables, complete with grocery and gift store, 2 modern bathhouses, a laundromat and 2 dump stations. The campground also has an olympic-size swimming pool and a children's play area.

Next issue – The Horse Park of New Jersey

In the Spotlight: NY Horse Park, Inc. promotional event: Over the Memorial Day weekend, the NY Horse Park had a booth at the Festival of Dressage. Our booth drew a lot of interest. We had videos of the Horse Park of New Jersey and the Florida Horse Park for people to see as well as the NYHP, Inc Power Point presentation (which can be seen on our website, www.nyhorsepark.org). There were the usual questions about “What’s a horse park?” and “Why doesn’t New York have one?” as well as “Where will it be located?/Do you have a site selected yet?”

The answer to the last question is “We’re investigating possibilities.” Because of the amount of land required - 300 acres, preferably more - it will probably be necessary for several land owners to combine their properties. We have received inquiries from several landowners and we will be exploring all possibilities. In support of this, members of our Board of Directors are working to put together a “Request for Nomination of Real Property (RFNRP)”. When completed, the RFNRP will be posted on our website for anyone to access.

Once this action is completed we will begin soliciting formal nominations. Once sufficient nominations are received, a selection committee, with the help of Saratoga P.L.A.N, will begin the review process. Land tours of all proposed sites will be scheduled before any site(s) is placed on the ‘short list.’ After this action, we will be soliciting proposals for a feasibility study regarding the proposed site(s). From there we will go into major fundraising mode.



Marsha Himler, President of NYHP, Inc. with a future horseman, one of the many interested people stopping to see the horse park videos at our NYHP booth during the Festival of Dressage on Memorial Day weekend.

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