

# PACESETTER

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

## SPEAKER COUGHLIN VISITS OFFSHORE FARM

New Jersey State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin on Thursday (April 30) visited Julie and Andy Miller's Offshore Farm, where he met with members of the Standardbred community to hear concerns regarding a proposed adjustment to the state's annual appropriation for horse racing purses in the fiscal year 2027 budget

Gov. Mikie Sherrill's budget proposal for FY2027 includes a \$5 million appropriation for purses, a



Assembly Speaker Coughlin visiting Andy and Julie Miller's Offshore Farm.

reduction from the \$20 million provided in previous years. The appropriation was first introduced in 2019 as part of a five-year, \$100 million allocation that has been renewed in subsequent years with the vital support of Speaker Coughlin.

An economic impact study in 2024, completed with assistance from the SBOANJ, showed horse racing generated \$75 million annually in tax revenue for New Jersey.

Speaker Coughlin's visit to Offshore Farm, which included a lunch reception and fundraiser, was hosted by the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey and the state's Standardbred

industry's political action committee, TrotPAC.

Among those joining Speaker Coughlin for the event were SBOANJ President Mark Ford as well as fellow officers Tony Romano, Chris Ryder, Julie Miller, and Al Ochsner. The group also included SBOANJ directors Stephen Dey III, Julie Meirs, and Anthony Perretti. Other industry representatives included John Campbell and Nadia Tarnawa from the Hambletonian Society and Jason Settle-moir from The Meadowlands. Many trainers and drivers were in attendance as well including Patrick Ryder, Dexter Dunn, Johnathan Ahle, Andrew McCarthy, Tyler Miller, Mark Herschberger, Helen Engblom, Stacy Chiodo, Annie Stoebe, Joe Holloway and Trond Smedshammer



Speaker Coughlin meets Patrick Ryder, Chris Ryder, Mark Herschberger and Brittany Herschberger.

Speaker Coughlin toured Offshore Farm during his visit, at the conclusion of which he addressed a large group of attendees to explain the budget process and pledge support for the industry. Last year, Gov. Phil Murphy's proposed budget included a \$10 million appropriation for horse racing purses but was restored to \$20 million by the Legislature as part of the budget process.



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# BIG M STAKES ON FOX SPORTS

The TV teams at The Meadowlands and the New York Racing Association (NYRA) are joining forces for a sixth consecutive year to bring some of the biggest stakes events at the No. 1 harness track in the world to a national television audience on the networks of FOX Sports.

The seven broadcasts will be part of NYRA's "America's Day at the Races" series, a Thoroughbred-centric telecast that will expose that audience to some of the most impactful events in the harness racing industry.

"All of us at The Meadowlands are so pleased once again to be joining forces with NYRA to bring some of the biggest events we offer here at The Meadowlands into people's living rooms," said Big M Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemoir. "(Chairman and Chief Executive Officer) Jeff Gural and I know that if we are to grow our business, we need to have a national TV presence. The shows on FOX Sports enable us to do that with a production that is first rate."

"FOX Sports and NYRA are happy to team up with The Meadowlands for another great year of premier stakes coverage, highlighted by the Hambletonian and Meadowlands Pace," said NYRA Senior Director of TV Operations Eric Donovan. "FOX Sports remains committed to showcasing harness racing's marquee events."

The talent duo of Jessica Otten and Gabe Prewitt will return to provide live-on-the-scene analysis, commentary and selections.

The first of the seven shows will feature the \$175,000 Arthur J. Cutler Memorial on May 16, with the final telecast showcasing some of the best 2-year-olds in training on Fall Final Four

Night on Saturday, Nov. 14.

Of course, one of the broadcasts will feature the 101st edition of the \$1-million Hambletonian, which takes place on Saturday, Aug. 8.

Here is the schedule for the seven shows that will feature Meadowlands stakes events on FOX Sports, with date, featured event(s), start and finish time and which network – FS1 or FS2 – the broadcast will be shown on:

July 4 – \$250,000 Graduate finals for both pacers and trotters; \$175,000 Crawford Farms; \$175,000 Dave Brower Memorial; \$150,000 Six Pack; \$150,000 Perfect Sting; and \$50,000 Meadowlands Pace eliminations, 8-11 p.m., FS1

July 11 – \$800,000 Meadowlands Pace; \$400,000 Hambletonian Maturity; \$300,000 Del Miller Memorial; \$300,000 Stanley Dancer Memorial; \$300,000 William Haughton Memorial; \$200,000 Jerry Silverman Memorial; and \$175,000 Dorothy Haughton Memorial, 8-11 p.m., FS1

August 8 – \$1,000,000 Hambletonian; \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks; \$300,000 Cane Pace; \$300,000 John Cashman Memorial; \$275,000 Sam McKee Memorial; \$175,000 Lady Liberty; \$175,000 Dr. John Steele Memorial; and \$120,000 Shady Daisy, TBA, TBA

September 11 – New Jersey Classic Series finals for 2- and 3-year-olds – There are four events for pacers for \$150,000 each and four events for trotters for \$250,000 each, 8-11 p.m., FS2

October 31 – Four \$125,000 Kindergarten Series finals for 2-year-olds, 8-11 p.m., FS2

November 14 – The Fall Final Four: Valley Victory, Goldsmith Maid, Three Diamonds and Governor's Cup, all for a purse of \$400,000; FanDuel Championships: Two \$350,000 dashes for males and two \$175,000 events for females, 9-11 p.m., FS2

# FAIR WINDS FARM AND MARK MULLEN 2025 BREEDER OF THE YEAR

Founded in 1968 in Cream Ridge, New Jersey, Fair Winds Farm has been a cornerstone of the Standardbred industry



Mark Mullen owner and operator of Fair Winds Farm

for over 50 years. Under the leadership of Mark Mullen, the farm operation has built a legacy defined by elite performance and a steadfast commitment to the future of the sport.

In 2025, Fair Winds Farm solidified its status as a national leader, ranking 22nd among all USTA breeders with over \$2.1 million in earnings produced 78 total wins—led by Captain Optimistic (\$1.136 million), Maddon Oaks (\$733,835), and Private Access (\$579,417). Other standouts over the years include Play Trix On Me (\$640,517), Pub Crawl (489,545), Zenith Stride (\$364,392), and Mazarati (\$332,465).

Beyond the winner's circle, Mark Mullen and his team have been dedicated ambassadors for the industry. Mark always

believes in giving back, especially by welcoming young people into Standardbred World. Fair Winds Farm regularly opens its gates to the public, hosting annual open houses and providing hands-on learning for 4-H, pony clubs, and local equine programs.



The Harness Horse Youth Foundation awarded Fair Winds Farm, owned by Mark Mullen, as its 2025 Service To Youth honoree.

The SBOANJ is proud to honor Fair Winds Farm for their excellence in breeding, their community leadership, and their enduring dedication to New Jersey's equine heritage.

Fair Winds Farm and Mark Mullen will receive the Breeder of the year award on May 27th at the New Jersey Equine Advisory Awards Banquet at Knob Hill Golf Club.

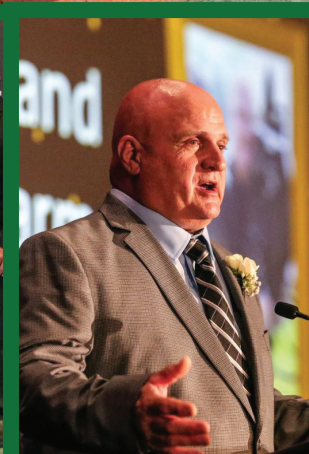
# GAITWAY FARMS WILL ONCE AGAIN BE HOSTING QUALIFIERS/BABY RACES

Gaitway Farms, Manalapan, N.J., will once again be hosting qualifiers/2-year-old races.

The dates are Wednesday (June 10, June 17 and June 24). Post time and draw dates will be announced at a later date.



# DAN PATCH AWARDS



# HOME GROWN PACE WINNERS

**BOOKIE J**  
PERFECT STING - SKYY



3YO Colts and Gelding Winner in 1:52  
Trainer: Chris Ryder, Driver: Dexter Dunn  
Owner: Kenneth E Jacobs

**AZRAEL BLUE CHIP**  
PERFECT STING - BATHSHEBA



3YO Colts and Gelding Winner in 1:53  
Trainer: Besim Odza, Driver: Andy McCarthy  
Owner: CT Stables LLC

**SUNNY STATION**  
PERFECT STING - SANDY'S BEACH



3YO Fillies Winner in 1:53.3  
Trainer: Brett Pelling, Driver: Todd McCarthy  
Owner: Deo Volente Farms LLC

**DARLIN'S ANGEL**  
CAPTAINREACHEROUS - DARLIN'S DELIGHT



3YO Fillies Winner in 1:54  
Trainer: Juan Cano, Driver: Lauren Tritton  
Owner: Hot Lead Farm

# GARDEN STATE TROT WINNERS

**MADAM CHEVAL**  
WALNER - SHAKE IT CERRY



3YO Trotting Fillies Winner in 1:53  
Trainer: Nancy Takter, Driver: Tim Tetrick  
Owner: M Biasuzzi Stable Inc

**LEADING LADY**  
WALNER - MUSCLE DOLLY



3YO Trotting Fillies Winner in 1:53.1  
Trainer: Nancy Takter, Driver: Matt Kakaley  
Owner: Black Horse Racing, Marvin Katz, Herb A Liverman

**AMERICAN POWER**  
WALNER - ARIANA G



3YO Trotting Colts and Gelding Winner in 1:52.3  
Trainer: Marcus Melander, Driver: Dexter Dunn  
Owner: M Biasuzzi Stable Inc

**PRACTICAL MAN**  
TACTICAL LANDING - FASHION ATHENA



3YO Trotting Colts and Gelding Winner in 1:53.4  
Trainer: Tom Fanning, Driver: Jordan Stratton  
Owner: Joseph E Smith

30th annual  
**GOLF**  
**TOURNAMENT**

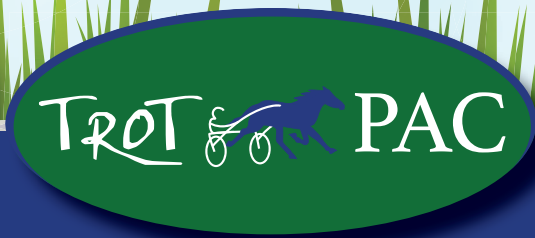
COCKTAILS • DINNER • PRIZES • AUCTIONS

**TUESDAY, JUNE 16**

**SAVE THE DATE**



KNOB HILL GOLF CLUB  
1 SHINNECOCK DRIVE  
MANALAPAN NJ 07726



TrotPAC trustees continue to attend many political leaders' fundraisers during these uncertain times to help ensure the long-term viability of Standardbred racing and breeding in New Jersey. With the recent changes in Legislators it is more important than ever that TrotPAC make its presence known in Trenton. TrotPAC trustees must now educate and promote the importance of our industry to the new Governor and State Legislators. Most recently TrotPAC trustees attended events for the following people: Senator Joseph A. Lagana, Assemblywoman Ellen Park, Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin, Assemblyman Roy Freiman, Assemblyman Louis D. Greenwald, Assemblyman Alex Sauickie, Senator Gordon Johnson, Senator John J. Burzichelli, Assemblywoman Andrea Katz, Assemblyman Chris Tully, Senator Troy Singleton, Assemblyman Bill Spearman, and Senator Nicholas P. Scutari.

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we look ahead to a transformative year for our state, the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey remains committed to protecting and growing the harness racing industry. Our breeders, trainers, and horsemen are the backbone of a sector that supports thousands of jobs and preserves open space. To ensure the long-term viability of the industry and its heritage, we must address critical issues as they come forward.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Governor and the Legislature for their continued recognition of our economic impact. This funding allows New Jersey's pacing and trotting programs, like the New Jersey Sire Stakes, to remain competitive with neighboring states. We rely on the state's commitment to help keep our purses lucrative and our farms thriving.

The Meadowlands remains the undisputed crown jewel of harness racing and is recognized worldwide. Thanks to the strong partnership between the SBOANJ and New Meadowlands Racetrack LLC, as well as the support of our state officials, we can continue to offer a racing product that can compete with surrounding states. With the continued support of the Governor and Legislators, "The Big M" will maintain its status as the sport's premier facility, offering racing fans the absolute best in the sport.

For years, our industry has fought to level the playing field against neighboring states that heavily subsidize their racing through casino revenues. A North Jersey casino license would unlock substantial tax revenue, create thousands of local jobs, and pump consistent, organic money directly into our horse racing purses, reducing the need for state appropriations.

With the FIFA World Cup drawing millions of eyes and visitors to the New York/New Jersey area this summer, including matches at MetLife Stadium, the state will be in the global spotlight. This will require some temporary adjustments to our live racing schedule, but it represents an unprecedented opportunity for our region's economy. An amendment to our current Meadowlands contract has been negotiated to allow horsemen to share in the additional revenue created from the World Cup. The SBOANJ supports the use of the Meadowlands property as a central ride-share, transit, and World Watch destination as requested by the state.

We are eager to welcome the world and showcase all that New Jersey's equine community has to offer.

Together, with the continued support of our state officials, the success of the Meadowlands, the expansion of casino gaming, and the global visibility of the World Cup, our industry is poised for a brighter future. We thank you for your continued advocacy and partnership.

*Mark Ford*



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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Marie Lauer

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Maritsa Quijada

### STAKES COORDINATOR

Regina Coyne

### PUBLICITY CONSULTANT

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### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

New Jersey Sire Stakes  
609-292-8830

License/Fingerprint  
NJ Racing Commission

Trenton: 609-292-0613  
Meadowlands: 201-460-4137

NJ Trailer Ban: NJTP  
800-336-5875