

PACESETTER

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

TEAM MILLER HOSTS LOCAL 4-H GROUP AT OFFSHORE FARM

Offshore Farm, owned and operated by Andy and Julie Miller, last week hosted 20 Monmouth County 4-H program students and parents at their newly built therapy and rehabilitation facility located in Cream Ridge, N.J.

The group tour was conducted by Katie Eick and Suzanne D'Ambrose.

First on the tour was the farm's half-mile sand track, which is used to condition the horses to prepare to go to the racetrack, and a visit to the paddocks where horses enjoy recreation and playtime.



Andy and Julie Miller's Offshore Farm welcomed students from the Monmouth County 4-H program for a tour in Cream Ridge, N.J. Provided photo.

While using the facility's water treadmill and spa, students observed a horse's workout session while expanding their equine physiology knowledge. We discussed with the group the benefits of the water treadmill as a tool for success for horses to maintain and/or rehabilitate a horse's racing career. The goal was to give the students insight on how to incorporate what they have learned into their own livestock.

The 4-H students also learned about halotherapy, or salt therapy, which can aid in treating respiratory health issues, at the facility's salt chamber.

At the conclusion of the tour, parents and students showed off everything they learned by answering trivia questions while enjoying pizza for lunch.

Group leader Rene Tanzi said, "What a fantastic experience for the 4-H students, their families, and me! I truly enjoyed learning about the water treadmill and salt therapy benefits. Thank you to Offshore Farm for hosting and the opportunity for the Monmouth County 4-H group."

Students had an orientation on how horses are raised to become a racehorse. Some of the group's members own off-the-track racehorses, and they especially appreciated the insight on what life is like as a racehorse.

Next up was a demonstration explaining the benefits of saltwater hydrotherapy.



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SBOANJ ANNOUNCES 2025 HORSE AND BREEDER OF THE YEAR

YO TILLIE 3,1:50.2 (\$1,284,495) has been voted as New Jersey Horse of the Year by the SBOANJ Breeders Committee.

The daughter of Tactical Landing from the Triumphant Caviar mare Consolidator was bred by GBW Breeding Farms Inc. and Black Creek Farm. Trained by Andrew Harris and driven by Todd McCarthy for the partnership of William Pollock, Bruce Areman and Andrew Harris. YO TILLE concluded her sophomore season with 11 wins and one second-place finish in 12 starts, amassing \$979,195 in seasonal earnings to become the year's leading moneywinning female trotter. In addition, she won the Breeders Crown Final at Woodbine Mohawk Park, the Kentucky Sire Stakes, and classics such as the NJ Classic, Delmonica Hanover, Reynolds, and Garden State Trot.

Fair Winds Farm, a premier Standardbred farm located in the heart of New Jersey's horse country, has been named the 2025 Breeder of the Year by the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey. The prestigious honor recognizes

the farm's exceptional contributions to harness racing and its continued excellence in producing top-tier equine athletes.

Owned by Mark Mullen, Fair Winds Farm has been a cornerstone of the New Jersey breeding industry for over 50 years. This latest accolade follows a momentous year for the farm, which also received the 2025 Service to Youth Award from the Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF) for its dedication to educating the next generation of horsemen.

Fair Winds Farm has a long history of breeding champions. In 2025, the farm continued its tradition of excellence, supporting the New Jersey Sire Stakes program and providing top-notch reproductive and boarding services for some of the industry's most successful breeders.

The awards will be formally presented at the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board Breeders Awards Ceremony.

2026 NEW JERSEY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

The SBOANJ is proud to announce the 2026 New Jersey Incentive Programs. The Incentive Programs include breeder awards, New Jersey sired owner awards, and the Resident Mare Rebates.

The New Jersey breeder awards pay 12% of the purse amount earned by each New Jersey-sired horse in division and finals of designated NJ races. The award amounts are determined each year based on the number of horses raced. The following races are included in the program:

NJSS Renaissance Pace

NJSS Platinum and Silver Divisions

NJSS Development Fund Races

SBOANJ Garden State Trot

SBOANJ Home Grown Pace

2 New Jersey Classic

New Jersey owner awards are payments to New Jersey-Sired horses racing in overnight events at the Meadowlands racetrack. The owner of a New Jersey-sired horse who is 6-year-old or under will be paid a monetary amount based on finish; 1st \$1,000, 2nd \$900, 3rd \$800, 4th \$700 and 5th \$600.

The Resident Mare Rebates are up to \$1,000 rebate paid to the first owner of record of a mare who has resided in New Jersey for 150 days, up to and including foaling.

The SBOANJ oversees all three of these programs, therefore an SBOANJ membership and W9 form are required for payments. Rebates are subject to change based on available funding. For more information visit the www.sboanj.com or call the office 732-462-2357.

NEW JERSEY STANDARDBRED DEVELOPMENT FUND WINNERS

Jim Beam and Custom were the winners of the New Jersey Standardbred Development Fund races for 2-year-old trotters while Car Keys and Azrael Blue Chip captured the finals for freshman pacers on Nov. 22 at The Meadowslands.

Custom won the \$60,000 final for female trotters by 4-1/4 lengths for driver Johnathan Ahle and trainer Per Engblom. Wishuponastar Deo finished second and Julie Palema was third. Custom, a daughter of Walner-Goldy Mary FR, is owned by Wrightstown's Engblom Farm and Thomas Lind-Holm. She was bred by Diamond Creek Farm and Order By Stable AB.

Jim Beam won the \$60,000 final for male trotters by a head for driver Tim Tetrack and trainer Scott DiDomenico. Lindy Living finished second and Who's Eyes Blues

was third. A son of Captain Corey-Melania, Jim Beam is owned by Millstone's Allen Wenc. He was bred by Cream Ridge's Pheasant Hill Farm.

Car Keys took home the \$60,000 final for female pacers by 3-1/4 lengths for trainer Chris Ryder and driver Dexter Dunn. Whoa Black Betty finished second and Ladysassin was third. Car Keys, a daughter of Always B Miki-Road Bet, is owned by Allentown's Margaret Dey and Monroe Township's Matthew Stolte. She was bred by Allentown's Stephen Dey III.

Azrael Blue Chip won the \$48,000 final for male pacers by a nose over Mighty Matt for driver Andy McCarthy and trainer Besim Odza. Everlast Sting Deo finished third. Azrael Blue Chip, a son of Perfect Sting-Bathsheba, is owned by CT Stables and was bred by Blue Chip Bloodstock.

SBOANJ 2026 RACING AND STALLION GUIDE

The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey is pleased to announce the release of the 2026 Racing and Stallion Guide, the definitive resource for the New Jersey harness racing industry.

The 2026 Racing and Stallion Guide serves as a comprehensive directory for stallions standing in New Jersey and includes critical data for breeders making informed decisions for the upcoming season.

Visit sboanj.com to view the 2026 Racing and Stallion Guide.

2026 NEW JERSEY RACING AND STALLION GUIDE



NJ CONNECTIONS DAN PATCH AWARD RECIPIENTS

TWO-YEAR-OLD MALETROTTER

APEX (colt)

Walner — Mission Brief — Muscle Hill

Breeder: Mission Brief Stable.

Owners: Jeffrey Snyder, S R F Stable, Steve Stewart.

Trainer: Marcus Melander. Driver: Dexter Dunn.

Races: 9-6-1-1. Purses: \$871,798. Top wins: Mohawk Million; \$368,950 Peter Haughton Memorial; \$250,000 New Jersey Classic.

TWO-YEAR-OLD FEMALETROTTER

SETYOURSIGHTSHIGH

In Range — Special Interest — Cantab Hall

Breeder: Kentuckiana Farms LLC.

Owners: Heights Stable, Mantorp LLC, AMG Stable Inc., K Kjellgren Livs AB Inc.

Trainer: Marcus Melander. Drivers: Dexter Dunn, Mike Wilder.

Races: 11-7-4-0. Purses: \$678,159. Top wins: \$300,000 Ohio Sire Stakes final; \$150,000 Next Generation.

THREE-YEAR-OLD MALETROTTER

SUPER CHAPTER (colt)

Chapter Seven — Lifetime Pursuit — Cantab Hall

Breeder: Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.

Owners: Jeffrey Snyder, Arthur Pronti, Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.

Trainer: Marcus Melander. Driver: Dexter Dunn.

Races: 14-9-3-1. Purses: \$1.23 million. Top wins: \$400,000 Kentucky Sire Stakes final; \$300,000 MGM Yonkers Trot; \$300,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial.

THREE-YEAR-OLD FEMALETROTTER

YOTILLIE

Tactical Landing — Consolidator — Triumphant Caviar

Breeders: GBW Breeding Farms Inc., Black Creek Farm.

Owners: William Pollock, Bruce Areman, Andrew Harris.

Trainer: Andrew Harris. Driver: Todd McCarthy.

Races: 12-11-1-0. Purses: \$979,195. Top wins: \$664,500 Breeders Crown; \$400,000 Kentucky Sire Stakes final; \$250,000 Delmonica Hanover; \$250,000 New Jersey Classic final.

OLDER MALETROTTER

LEXUS KODY (7-year-old gelding)

Archangel — Lexus Helios — Ken Warkentin

Breeder: Norm Dunstan.

Owners: Burke Racing Stable LLC, Weaver Brusceci LLC, Phillip Collura.

Trainer: Ron Burke. Driver: Yannick Gingras.

Races: 21-11-3-4. Purses: \$1.31 million. Top wins: \$1 million MGM Yonkers International Trot; \$459,900 Maple Leaf; \$350,000 FanDuel Open Trot Championship; \$250,000 Dayton Trotting Derby.

OLDER FEMALETROTTER

WARRAWEE MICHELLE (4-year-old mare)

Walner — Sound Check — Yankee Glide

Breeder: Warrawee Farm.

Owners: Ake Svanstedt Inc., Santandrea Inc., Young Guns.

Trainer: Ake Svanstedt. Driver: Ake Svanstedt.

Races: 11-3-4-2. Purses: \$569,991. Top wins: \$400,000 Breeders Crown; \$230,000 Graduate Series final.

TWO-YEAR-OLD FEMALE PACER

LOUA DIPA

Sweet Lou — Looksgoodinaromper — Pet Rock

Breeders: Burke Racing Stable LLC, Weaver Brusceci LLC.

Owners: Burke Racing Stable LLC, Weaver Brusceci LLC.

Trainer: Ron Burke. Driver: Ronnie Wrenn Jr.

Races: 13-9-2-1. Purses: \$827,028. Top wins: \$700,000 Breeders Crown; \$343,100 She's A Great Lady.

THREE-YEAR-OLD MALE PACER

LOUPRINT (colt)

Sweet Lou — Rockin Racer — Rockin Image

Breeders: Burke Racing Stable LLC, Weaver Brusceci LLC, Phillip Collura.

Owners: Burke Racing Stable LLC, Weaver Brusceci LLC, Phillip Collura, Lawrence Karr.

Trainer: Ron Burke. Driver: Ronnie Wrenn Jr.

Races: 12-10-1-0. Purses: \$1.02 million. Top wins: \$740,000 North America Cup; \$500,000 Little Brown Jug; \$300,000 Pennsylvania Sire Stakes final.

THREE-YEAR-OLD FEMALE PACER

MIKI AND MINNIE

Always B Miki — That's The Ticket — Roll With Joe

Breeders: Craig Henderson, Robert Mondillo, Lawrence Minowitz.

Owners: Craig Henderson, Robert Mondillo, Lawrence Minowitz.

Trainer: Chris Ryder. Driver: Dexter Dunn.

Races: 15-13-2-0. Purses: \$1.12 million. Top wins: \$600,000 Breeders Crown; \$300,000 Pennsylvania Sire Stakes final; \$288,600 Fan Hanover; \$250,000 James M. Lynch Memorial; \$175,000 FanDuel Mare Pace Championship.

OLDER FEMALE PACER

TWIN B JOE FRESH (5-year-old)

Roll With Joe — Fresh Breeze — Captaintreacherous

Breeder: Brittany Farms LLC.

Owners: Chris Ryder, Dexter Dunn, Peter Trebotica, Barry Spak.

Trainer: Chris Ryder. Driver: Dexter Dunn.

Races: 9-6-2-1. Purses: \$526,714. Top wins: \$250,000 Dayton Distaff Derby; \$212,380 Roses Are Red; \$151,200 Milton; \$142,000 Dorothy Haughton Memorial.

NEW JERSEY FAIRS WELL AT STANWARDBRED HORSE SALE

New Jersey-eligible yearlings sold for an average of \$54,345 at the Standardbred Horse Sale in Harrisburg, Pa., this past November, which was the second-highest average at the sale. Overall, 110 N.J.-eligible yearlings sold for a total of nearly \$6 million, marking the fifth consecutive year that New Jersey eligibles have topped \$5.5 million.

Trotting stallion Walner, who stands at Southwind Farms in Pennington, sired the sale's top seller, Climatic Hanover, who went for \$725,000. He also sired two more in the top eight, Salubrious Hanover and Athena's Girl. Walner averaged \$132,565 for 23 yearlings, one of only two stallions to average six figures at the sale.

Among consignors selling more than eight yearlings, Concord Stud Farm, in Cream Ridge, topped the average with \$59,184 for 76 horses.

In the two years prior to the 2019 appropriation, a total of 53 New Jersey-eligible yearlings were sold at the Standardbred Horse Sale. Over the past five years, no fewer than 108 have sold in Harrisburg.

The yearling portion of the Standardbred Horse Sale totaled \$36.03 million and averaged \$41,701. Those numbers were pretty much on par with 2024, which reached \$37.09 million and averaged \$42,830.

Buyers from New Jersey spent more than \$10 million on yearlings in 2025.

The Standardbred Horse Sale mixed sale totaled \$38.55 million and averaged \$55,156, both records.

Overall, both sales totaled \$74.58 million, also a record.

DEXTER CUP/LADY SUFFOLK LATE YEARLING PAYMENT UPDATE FOR FOALS OF 2024

Due to the sudden relocation of the Dexter Cup and Lady Suffolk races to The Meadowlands Racetrack following the closure of Freehold Raceway in 2025, an accommodation has been approved for certain horses.

Two-year-olds (foals of 2024) sired by Rebuff and Temporal Hanover will be permitted to make the \$25 yearling payment that was originally due in May 2025 for the race of 2027.

This \$25 yearling payment will be accepted on or before March 15, 2026, and must be submitted along with the regular sustaining payment, as follows:

\$400 for colts and geldings
\$200 for fillies

This accommodation applies only to foals of 2024 sired by Rebuff and Temporal Hanover and is being granted in light of the circumstances surrounding the race relocation.

Please ensure all applicable payments are submitted to The Hambletonian Society by the March 15, 2026 deadline to maintain eligibility.

SBOANJ ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The SBOANJ Board of Directors conducted its annual reorganization meeting on, December 17. The meeting produced the following results:

Mark Ford President, Anthony Romano 1st Vice President, Michael Gulotta 2nd Vice President, Christopher

Ryder 3rd Vice President. Tom Pontone Treasurer and Julie Miller Secretary.

The board will be announcing subcommittee members for 2026 at its next meeting.

TOP WINS TO END 2025

New Jersey-connected horses that posted victories in the FanDuel finals in November at The Meadowlands:

Maximus Miki in the \$350,000 FanDuel Open Pace Championship (G1) for trainer Tom Cancelliere and owner John Cancelliere.

Lexus Kody in the \$350,000 FanDuel Open Trot Championship (G1) for trainer Ron Burke and driver Yannick Gingras.

Miki And Minnie in the \$175,000 FanDuel Mare Pace Championship (G2) for trainer Chris Ryder and driver Dexter Dunn.

M-M's Dream in the \$175,000 FanDuel Mare Trot

Championship (G2) for trainer Ron Burke, driver Yannick Gingras, and co-owner Frank Baldachino.

Other Grade 1 winners in November at The Meadowlands included:

All Time Trot S in the \$462,000 Goldsmith Maid for trainer Ake Svanstedt and driver Yannick Gingras.

Diabolic Hill in the \$421,000 Valley Victory for trainer Annie Stoebe, driver Todd McCarthy, and stallion Muscle Hill.

Gentleman's Club in the \$334,000 for trainer Aaron Lambert and driver Andy McCarthy.



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 im-

portant than ever that TrotPAC make its presence known in Trenton. TrotPAC trustees must now educate and pro-

mote the importance of our industry to the new Governor and State Legislators. Most recently TrotPAC trustees

attended New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill's inauguration ball at the American Dream mall.



Lt. Governor Caldwell, Julie Miller, Chris Ryder and Mike Gulotta.



Governor Mikie Sherrill



Julie Miller, Chris Ryder and AJ Sabath at the Inauguration Ball.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we reflect on a year that has reaffirmed New Jersey's standing as the premier destination for Standardbred racing and breeding, we highlight our collaborations with state leaders and our partners at the Meadowlands to navigate significant changes and build a more sustainable future for our horsemen and women.

Our most critical achievement this year was securing the full restoration of the \$20 million annual horse racing purse supplement in the FY2026 state budget. This funding, extending through 2029, ensures \$10 million for the Standardbred industry each year. As a condition of receiving these funds, we are required to submit a yearly report to the state legislature, the Governor, and the New Jersey Racing Commission detailing the use of the funds and their impact on the industry. This funding is more than just financial support; it is a vital investment in our farms, our breeders, and the preservation of New Jersey's open spaces.

The closure of Freehold Raceway presented a significant challenge, but I am pleased to report that the SBOANJ and New Meadowlands Racetrack finalized a landmark agreement to bridge the gap. We expanded the Meadowlands schedule to 102 race dates for 2026, ensuring our horsemen have a consistent venue to compete in overnight races. Additionally, we successfully advocated for the reallocation of Freehold's former state purse funds to support these overnight races at the Meadowlands.

It has been a banner year for our homegrown champions:

NJ Horse of the Year: Congratulations to Yo Tillie (3, 1:50.2; \$1,284,495) on being voted the 2025 NJ Horse of the Year. Her dominant sophomore season, including a Breeders Crown victory, exemplifies the caliber of athletes our state produces.

NJ Breeder of the Year: We honor Fair Winds Farm and Mark Mullen for their decades of excellence and continued contributions to the NJ Sire Stakes program. Mark was a great help to our industry and will be missed not only as a dedicated SBOANJ board member but also as a breeder who consistently brought top yearlings to the sales.

SBOANJ sends congratulations to board member Chris Ryder for training two 2025 Dan Patch Award winners (Miki And Minnie & Twin B Joe Fresh), and to Ron Burke on earning the title of Trainer of the Year.

Our incentive programs have remained robust, paying out \$4.1 million in Breeder Awards and \$3.6 million in Sired Awards to date plus the \$1,000 Resident Mare Rebate. We also maintain critical member services such as health insurance for qualified horsemen, and our driver/trainer retirement plan.

Looking ahead, to our breeding program we welcome new prominent stallions Karl and Captain Optimistic to our state. Our commitment remains unwavering: to protect the interests of our members and ensure that New Jersey continues to set the standard for excellence in harness racing.

While we understand the complexities regarding the casino situation, we are hoping that The Meadowlands and Jeff Gural will find a path to submit a bid for the 2027 Hambletonian before the March 1st deadline. The Hambletonian belongs at The Meadowlands, and we urge all parties to ensure it stays there.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support.

Mark Ford



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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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NJ Racing Commission

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

NJ Trailer Ban: NJTP
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