

## TRAINERS—PAST JUDGES

- \* Twenty-seven Hall of Fame trainers are counted among our past judges, including Triple Crown-winning trainers Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons, Max Hirsch and Lucien Laurin.
- \* Legendary Hall of Fame trainer Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons judged the MHBA yearling show for 10 years, from 1933 to 1942.
- \* Triple Crown-winning Billy Turner judged the show in 1977, the day after Seattle Slew won the Preakness.
- \* Horatio A. Luro sent Northern Dancer out to win the 1964 Preakness on Saturday, then judged Maryland-bred yearlings the next day.
- \* Classic-winning trainer Barclay Tagg was our judge in 2003 and is the first to pin a future Eclipse Award winner as a class winner, when he gave the blue ribbon to Declan's Moon in Class I.

Tagg pinned Katie's Love, a daughter of Not For Love, as grand champion. She went on to become a stakes winner. Tagg's Class VI winner, the filly Thatswhatimean, was a stakes winner in 2005 and won the 2005 Yearling Show Purse Premium for 3-year-olds.
- \* Jonathan Sheppard's pick as grand champion in 2004 was eventually named Grand Champion. The son of Two Punch had a great season at 4, with two stakes wins, including the Maryland Million Sprint, and top three finishes in all 10 of his starts, winning half of them.
- \* In 2006, Preakness-winning trainer Tim Ritchey picked out the More Than Ready colt Ready's Image as his Class III winner. Ready's Image, trained by Todd Pletcher, was a graded stakes winner at 2 and named Maryland-bred champion of his division in 2007.
- \* Al Stall Jr. selected Great Notion's son Phlash Phelps as reserve champion in 2012. He was named Maryland-bred champion turf runner in 2015, the year he won the first of two runnings of the Maryland Million Turf.
- \* In the past decade Ken McPeck, Tony Dutrow, John Servis and Rick Violette awarded blue ribbons to future stakes winners.

## OWNERS

- \* A challenge trophy to the owner of the grand champion yearling has been presented every year since the Henry L. Straus Memorial Trophy was first offered in 1950. In order to become the permanent possession of the winner, the challenge trophy must be won three times by the same ownership.

This year the grand champion will take home the Chanceland Farm Challenge Trophy, which was offered for the first time in 2016 after Robert Manfuso and Katharine Voss retired the Foxharbor Farm Challenge Trophy with their third grand champion in five years.
- \* Rigan McKinney, owner of Blarney Farm in Woodbine, Howard County, retired the Henry L. Straus Memorial Trophy in 1960 after showing his third champion in four years. McKinney was a colorful character who became a member of racing's Hall of Fame in 1968.
- \* Others to have retired the Challenge Trophy in Yearling Show history were Robert Manfuso in 1999, when taking home the Blarney Challenge Trophy, and Foxharbor owner Cary Jackson, who retired the first Chanceland Trophy in 2010.

- \* Alfred G. Vanderbilt leads all owners of yearling show champions. Yearlings from Vanderbilt's Sagamore Farm won seven shows—the first coming in 1934 and the last in 1967. Kevin Plank's Sagamore Farm continued the tradition, breeding and owning two champions in four years—a Macho Uno filly in 2013 and an Into Mischief filly in 2016.
- \* Robert Manfuso, who died in early 2020, had nine times taken home the championship trophy with horses bred and owned by himself or with partner Katy Voss. The first was in 1992 and the most recent in 2019 with a Midshipman filly bred and shown by the couple. Horses from their Chanceland Farm were champions five of the past seven years. Yearlings are now shown in Katy Voss' name, and she took the trophy home in 2021.
- \* Other top Maryland breeders who have won the show include Stuart S. Janney Jr. (a two-time winner), J.W.Y Martin (the first two shows—in 1932 and 1933), Mrs. Bayard Sharp and two-time winner Sylvester Labrot.
- \* In 2003 and 2004, Brice and Mary Anne Ridgely won four of the 12 classes, and had shown the 2003 champion and 2004 reserve champion. Among their class winners was Eclipse Award-winning Declan's Moon.
- \* In 2009, David and Jo Ann Hayden of Dark Hollow Farm showed the champion and reserve champion yearlings—it was only the second time in 75 years that the same owner took home both trophies. Fendall Clagett accomplished the feat in 1972. The Haydens have won 14 classes (solely or in partnership), the first in 1989, and had grand champions in 2009 and 2014.
- \* The Haydens are also the first to exhibit a future Hall of Famer. In 1987, they brought their homebred filly Safely Kept, the eventual Eclipse Award-winning champion sprinter, \$2 million earner and Breeders' Cup Sprint winner. Safely Kept was inducted into the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame in Saratoga in 2011.  

Amazingly, Safely Kept did not earn a ribbon the year she was shown. . . but she was one of 60 in her class!
- \* After showing the reserve champion three times since 2018, Ellen Charles' Hillwood Stables took home the top prize in 2022 with a son of her own graded stakes winner Bandbox. The grand champion, and two of Hillwood Stable's reserve champions, were out of the mare Dearie Be Good.

## SIRES

- \* 44 stallions have offspring entered in this year's show.
- \* Anchor & Hope Farm's Holy Boss tops all sires by number of entries in this year's show with nine.
- \* Among the sires of this year's entries, 17 are Maryland stallions representing seven different farms. And nine of the top 10 Maryland sires of 2023 have yearlings entered.
- \* A yearling from the final crop of major sire Malibu Moon, who launched his career in Maryland, has been entered.
- \* Bolt d'Oro, the nation's leading freshman sire last year, has two entrants. Classic sires Maclean's Music and Twirling Candy are also represented.

- \* The Mid-Atlantic region's 2023 leading sire, Northview Stallion Station's Great Notion, has a yearling entered. The 23-year-old stallion has twice been the leading sire of the show, and over the years has sired four class winners, including Maryland-bred champion Phlash Phelps and stakes winner Just Jack, both reserve champions.
- \* The Northview Stallion Station Get-of-Sire Trophy is handed out each year to the leading Maryland sire of the show. The trophy is offered in the name of Not For Love, who retired the Worthington Farm's Challenge Trophy in 2006 by winning it three times. Not For Love's last full crop of yearlings were shown in 2016.
- \* The sire with the most class winners in yearling show history is Not For Love, with 11, the last coming in 2016 from his last full crop.
- \* The most successful sire by number of champions in yearling show history is Discovery. The Sagamore Farm great had nine class winners over seven years—five were named champion and two were reserve champion.
- \* Run Fool Run, a class winner in 1965, sired two show champions and a class winner in the 1970s.
- \* Alfred G. Vanderbilt's Native Dancer, also known as the "Grey Ghost," sired a show champion and a class winner in the 1960s.

## HORSES

- \* The winner of the show doesn't necessarily go on to be the most successful at the track. Among the stars to not win their class when shown are:
  - Safely Kept**—A Racing Hall of Fame member, she earned over \$2 million, won the Breeders' Cup Sprint and an Eclipse Award as the nation's champion sprinter—but was overlooked in the ring in 1987.
  - Smart Angle**—finished fifth in her class in 1978, but was nearly unbeatable in 1979 on the track, winning three Grade 1 stakes and being named the nation's champion 2-year-old filly.
  - Cathryn Sophia**—the 2016 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year, champion sprinter and champion filly at 2 and 3 earned more \$1 million, recorded a Grade 1 win in the \$1 million Kentucky Oaks and was never been off the board. She finished second in her class in 2014.
  - Sharing**—A two-time yearling show purse premium award winner, she won four stakes in nine starts, including the 2019 Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf, was named 2019 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year, took home four divisional titles and earned \$1 million—but didn't get a ribbon in 2018.
  - Aloha West**—While there were no ribbons for this colt in 2018, he thrilled Marylanders with his dramatic come-from-behind victory in the 2021 Breeders' Cup Sprint-G1. That year's Maryland-bred champion sprinter, he was a finalist for an Eclipse Award and retired with earnings of \$1,507,290.
  - Urbane**—placed fourth in her class in 1993, then outdid all of the yearlings shown that year by earning more than \$1 million
  - Cherokee's Boy**—finished fourth in his class in 2001 and competed even better on the race track. He won 14 stakes races and surpassed \$1 million in earnings. Cherokee's Boy was the 2005 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year and was a divisional champion in 2002 and 2005.
  - Eighttofasttocatch**—The 12-time stakes winner of \$1,072,970 won three Maryland Million Classics and four runnings of the Jennings Handicap. But he failed to get a ribbon in 2007.

**Magic Weisner**—didn't receive a ribbon in 2000, but the 2002 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year was named Maryland-bred champion at 2 and 3 and made headlines by just getting beat by War Emblem in the 2002 Preakness.

**Northern Wolf**—may not have looked fast on yearling show day, but he set six-furlong track records at Laurel and Pimlico. He also won the inaugural running of the Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash.

**Oliver's Twist**—didn't receive a ribbon in 1993, but he got a lot of attention when finishing second in the Preakness two years later.

**Jolly Johu**—finished fifth in 1972, but went on to finish second in the Belmont Stakes and win or place in 20 other stakes.

**Shenanigans**—was second in a large class in 1964, three years after her half-brother Knocklofty was the show champion. Shenanigans placed in a stakes at 2, but became legendary as a broodmare, producing the great filly Ruffian.

\* Over the past decade, dozens of yearlings who walked the horse show ring went on to become stakes winners, including:

The star-studded 2018 Yearling Show included Breeders' Cup winners **Sharing** and **Aloha West**, additional Maryland-bred champions **Hello Beautiful** and **Laddie Liam**, and graded stakes winner **Project Whiskey**.

The flashy **Hello Beautiful**, who placed second in Class III in 2018, went on to win 10 of 20 starts, including eight \$100,000 stakes, and earn more than a half-million dollars as well as the title of 2021 Maryland-Bred champion older female.

**Cordmaker**, the 2019 Maryland-Bred champion older male with nine stakes wins, including the Grade 3 General George, became a millionaire in 2022. Yet he was overlooked in the ring in 2016.

**Fille d'Esprit**, a daughter of Great Notion second in her class in 2017, was named 2022 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year after winning five stakes during the year and placing in five others, including the Barbara Fritchie-G3. A stakes winner in 2023, she now has earnings of \$735,101.

**Malibu Moonshine**, one of this year's cover horses as a top Yearling Show Purse premium recipient, walked out of the ring without a ribbon in 2021, but took home a Maryland-bred champion trophy last year at 2 after winning all three starts, two stakes, including the Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship.

**Mayla**, a daughter of 2007 class winner Fifteen Moons, didn't match her mother's show accomplishments, but when far beyond on the track as a stakes winner and graded stakes-placed runner who was named Maryland-bred champion 3-year-old filly in 2025.

**Exculpatory**, while he didn't get a ribbon in 2019, won the 2021 Robert Hilton Memorial Stakes which propelled him to the top of the 2021 Yearling Show Purse competition.

**Wicked Prankster** strolled the yearling show ring without success, but hit the jackpot when leading at every call in the 2022 Maryland Million Turf.

**Nick Papagiorgio** didn't leave the show ring in 2017 with a ribbon, but has gotten his picture taken 10 times at the track, including last year's Find Stakes at Laurel.

\* There have been many winners of the show who have run to their looks. A few include:

**Declan's Moon**, winner of Class I in 2003—Eclipse Award winning 2-year-old male of 2004 when undefeated in four starts, three stakes, including the Grade 1 Hollywood Futurity. He was named Maryland-bred horse of the year in 2004 and Maryland-bred champion 3-year-old in 2005

**Ready's Image**, winner of Class III in 2006, sold for \$410,000 at the Keeneland September Yearling sale. A graded stakes winner and earner of \$259,422 at 2, he was named Maryland-bred champion 2-year-old colt and took the top yearling show purse premium award for that year. He retired to stud in Kentucky after earning more than \$300,000 from 10 starts.

**Grand Champion**, the show's champion in 2004 recorded five wins from 10 starts as a 4-year-old, including the Maryland Million Sprint Handicap and Fall Highweight Handicap, and retired with earnings of more than \$350,000.

**Project Whiskey**, winner of Class IV in 2018, won the 2020 Delaware Oaks-G3

**Oldies But Goodies**, reserve champion in 2016 and stakes winner in 2019

**Earth to Jackie**, champion in 1995—a three-time stakes winner.

**Alden's Ambition**, champion in 1982—a winner of five stakes for earnings of more than \$325,000.

**Katie's Love**, champion in 2003—a stakes winner in 2007. And her daughter Celtic Katie was a stakes winner

**Just Jack**, reserve champion in 2014, was a stakes winner in 2016.

**Proper Angel**, winner of Class IV in 1994—winner of the Grade 3 Honey Bee Handicap.

**Phlash Phelps** was the reserve champion in 2012 and in 2015 he went undefeated and was named Maryland-bred champion turf runner.

## MARYLAND-BRED CHAMPIONS

- \* One never knows what the future holds. Spectators with sharp eyes could have spotted 38 future Maryland-bred champions in the show ring when they were yearlings, including 2021 Maryland-Bred champion older female **Hello Beautiful** and Maryland-bred champion sprinter **Aloha West** and 2022 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year **Fille d'Esprit** and champion 2-year-old filly **Malibu Moonshine**.
- \* Remarkably four yearling show graduates were named Maryland-bred champions in 2019. In addition to Horse of the Year, champion 2-year-old filly and champion turf runner **Sharing**, the others were 2-year-old male **Laddie Liam**, 3-year-old filly **Las Setas** and older male **Cordmaker**.

## PREMIUM AWARD WINNERS

- \* There is a lot of money on the line at this year's show—not only in the ring, but when these yearlings compete on the race track at 2 and 3. A total of \$40,000 is divided between the top four earners over the next two years.
- \* The most money ever earned by a yearling show participant in a single season was \$1,139,720 by Cathryn Sophia in 2016, the year she won the Kentucky Oaks-G1 and was named Maryland-bred Horse of the Year. Shown by breeder Robert Manfuso, she finished second in her class in 2014.
- \* The top earning 2-year-old since the premiums were established nearly 40 years ago is Sharing, who amassed \$730,300 in 2019 after winning the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf-G1. Her total surpassed that of 2004 Eclipse Award winner Declan's Moon, with \$500,000-plus in earnings his championship season.
- \* The leading exhibitor by purse premiums earned is Dark Hollow Farm. Either owned solely or in partnership, Dark Hollow has taken home 30 Premium Awards since their first runners made it to the races in 1986. The total amount of premium awards earned by horses exhibited in the Dark Hollow Farm name is \$152,000.