



Chasing

NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION | 400 FAIR HILL DRIVE, ELKTON, MD 21921

Registration continues for inaugural Owner Symposium and Auction

There's still time to register for the inaugural Owner Symposium and Marketplace Auction to be held at Shawan Downs in Hunt Valley, Md., on Sunday, April 12.

The unique event, conceived by the National Steeplechase Association's Promotion and Growth Task Force and sponsored by the National Steeplechase Foundation, will bring together current owners, former owners, and prospective jump-racing owners for a day of sharing knowledge and insights.

Chaired by Charles Fenwick Jr., the Symposium and Marketplace Auction is free, although reservations are requested. The festivities kick off at 10 a.m. with the Symposium portion of the program. An all-star line-up has been assembled by Fenwick's committee, including:

□ Cot Campbell, the founder of Dogwood Stable, one of America's first and most successful horse-owning partnerships. A long-time steeplechase owner through Dogwood, Campbell will share his insights on racing and ownership.

□ Jonathan Sheppard, a Racing Hall of Fame trainer and a leading owner of jump-racing competitors. The well-known horseman is American Steeplechasing's all-time leading trainer and one of the Thoroughbred sport's all-time leaders by Eclipse Awards, including two on the flat. Most recently, he was the trainer and co-breeder of Bill Pape's Divine Fortune, the 2013 Eclipse winner as champion steeplechase horse.

□ Michael T. Wharton, owner of multiple timber stakes winner Grinding Speed. An avid horseman, he is an Annapolis, Md.,-based attorney with practices in product liability and equine law. Trained by Alicia Murphy, Grinding Speed scored a second victory in the International Gold Cup last October.

"We couldn't ask for a better group of presenters, and I'm most grateful for their willingness to share their time and knowledge with all



owners and prospective jump-racing owners," Fenwick said. "This will be a unique opportunity to share knowledge and insights that will benefit all who attend the Symposium."

Topics to be discussed include the various ways to find a steeplechase horse, what to expect of a trainer, and what a trainer expects of his or her owners. Various types of ownership will also be reviewed, and the speakers will be available for a question-and-answer session.

Following the Symposium, a catered lunch will be served, and some of the sale horses will school over fences.

Steve Dance, a third-generation auctioneer, will manage the auction where buyers and sellers will be brought together. No sales

company is involved. The sale will include 15 to 25 horses, all reviewed by a committee of experts as to each horse's suitability for jump racing and inclusion in the sale.

The horses will be listed on the website, gojumpracing.org, and each will have its own page showing pedigree, race record, and relevant photos and videos. Some horses will be sold outright, while others will be offered in other variations. There's no charge to take part in the sale, and successful buyers will be charged a \$250 participation fee.

For more information or to register, contact Danielle Oster at danielleoster@gmail.com or (443) 386-2097. A RSVP form is available on the gojumpracing.org website.



Important developments and initiatives as a busy spring season gets under way

The first races of the 2015 National Steeplechase Association season are in the books, and it's promising to be a very active season for jump racing. Guy J. Torsilieri, the NSA's president, outlined several of the latest developments in a letter to the NSA Board of Directors a few weeks before the first race meet at Aiken, S.C., on Saturday, March 21.

Torsilieri noted that "a lot is going on in steeplechasing now, and it's all for the good."

Here are some of the developments and initiatives that he mentioned in his letter.

Ratings system

In response to interest from horsemen, a ratings system is being created that is designed to provide more racing opportunities for many horses.

Under the supervision of Director of Racing Bill Gallo, a three-person Handicap Committee composed of Joe Clancy, Martin Chamberlin, and Will O'Keefe rated all winners over hurdles now in training. The list was based on trainers' reports of the horses they intended to have in training this spring.

From the ratings list, six races will be created and carded as substitute races at Atlanta (April 18), Queen's Cup (April 25), Block House (May 2), Iroquois (May 9), Radnor (May 16), and Fair Hill (May 23).

"We want to have racing opportunities for every horse that is race-ready," Gallo said. "Our horsemen said they felt that their horses sometimes lacked ample opportunities after breaking their maidens, and the Ratings Races will address their concerns. These races offer an exciting opportunity for our horses, and we hope these races will be well supported."

Owner Symposium and Auction

Details of the inaugural Owner Symposium and Market Auction, to be held Sunday, April 12, at Shawan Downs, are on page 1 of this is-



NSA President Guy J. Torsilieri outlined the spring developments and initiatives in a letter to Board of Directors members.

DON CLIPPINGER PHOTO

sue of 'Chasing. Torsilieri urged directors to support the event by attending and bringing a prospective owner with them.

Jockey accident insurance

A significant portion of the cost of the NSA jockey's accident medical insurance will be covered this year by The Steeplechase Fund, a charitable organization that benefits participants in our sport. Owner and rider per-start fees will be waived for this year, and the jockey license fee will increase by \$50 to \$250. Based on the former \$5 per-start fee, jockeys with more than 10 mounts this year will be saving money.

Horsemen's Liaison

As part of the NSA's effort to provide enhanced service to licensed horse owners and other horsemen, a pilot Horsemen's Liaison program will be initiated at the Virginia spring race meets.

The Horsemen's Liaison will be an additional NSA presence at Middleburg (April 18), Foxfield (April 25), and the Virginia Gold Cup (May 2), and will be charged with providing personal service to horsemen and striving to resolve any issues that may arise. Elizabeth Beer of Middleburg will serve as the Horsemen's Liaison at those three meets.

Riders Program

The Steeplechase Safety Task Force under board member Dr. Reynolds Cowles is moving toward creation of a Riders Program with assistance from board members Nick Ellis and Donald Yovanovich, several leading jockeys, and other horsemen. Ellis, who heads the Stoneybrook Steeplechase, leads the effort.

It is envisioned that completion of this one-day educational program would be mandatory for riding at Saratoga this summer, and another educational session would be held prior to the fall racing season. The first session tentatively is scheduled for Sunday, May 24, in Fair Hill, Md.

While the details of the program are being completed, three-time Olympic medalist and steeplechase owner-trainer James Wofford has agreed to lead the Fair Hill session.

Torsilieri offered special thanks to Bill Price, chair of the NSA's Promotion and Growth Task Force, for his valuable work on the Ratings System, the Owner Symposium and Marketplace Auction, and the Horsemen's Liaison. "He and his Task Force members have helped to move us forward with new ideas and new approaches," Torsilieri said.

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