The Fair Hill Bugle

Fair Hill Foundation Newsletter

Fall 2023

MARS Maryland 5 Star Presented by Brown Advisory Draws "Talent-Packed Field"

World-class competitors will gather for the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill presented by Brown Advisory in Cecil County October 19-22. At the pinnacle of the Eventing world, the Maryland 5 Star is one of two 5 Star events in the U.S. and only seven worldwide. It is expected to draw more than 175 rider and horse combinations from the USA, Great Britain, New Zealand and Ireland to compete in dressage, cross-country and show jumping.

Dressage begins on Thursday, October 19 and finishes on Friday, October 20 in the main arena in the infield of the new one-mile Fair Hill turf track. On Saturday, October 21, the thrilling cross-country phase – four galloping miles over an Ian Stark-designed course featuring 27 formidable fences and water hazards – will take place, and the competition will be decided on Sunday during the final show jumping phase in the main arena.

"We are so excited for the upcoming third edition of the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill presented by Brown Advisory. We have an incredible international field of horses and riders represented from the US and around the globe across all three levels of our competitions to

Eclipse Sportswire photo

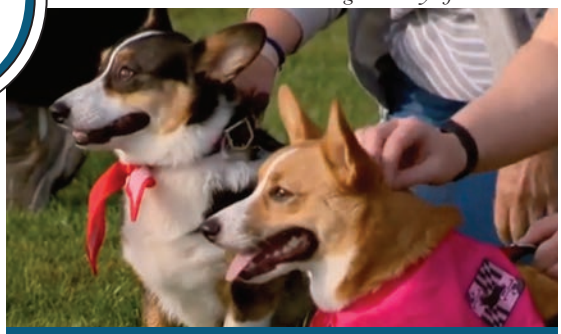
complement all of the fun and family-oriented activities, food & beverage, live entertainment and retail shopping offerings throughout the week," said Jeff Newman, President of the Maryland 5 Star Event Committee, an affiliate of the Sport & Entertainment Corporation of Maryland, the owner and operator of the event. "The event will truly be THE place to be in October."

Boyd Martin, winner of the inaugural 2021 Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill and a local favorite from nearby Cochranville, PA, and Tim Price, last year's winner from New Zealand, are expected to defend their titles.

"Some of the highlights we've seen pop up on the five-star lineup?" *Eventing Nation* asked. "Pau winners Tim Price and Falco, who were also double bronze medalists at the World Championships last year; Oliver Townend's Blenheim eight- and nine-year old champ, Colley Rosalent, Ireland's Austin O'Connor and Colorado Blue, who were the fastest pair around a seriously tough Badminton this spring; New Zealand's Caroline Powell and her seriously cool Paris hopeful Greenacres Special Cavalier; William Fox-Pitt and his Badminton top-fifteen finisher Grafennacht; and Piggy March and her ten-year-old Thoresby CCI4*-S winner Brookfield Cavalier Cruise, who'll be making his five-star debut here," was the answer.

Calling it a "talent-packed field," *The Chronicle of the Horse* reported on September 22: "There are eight Olympians riding at Maryland: Phillip Dutton (Azure) USA, William Fox-Pitt (Grafennacht) Great Britain, Boyd Martin (Contessa and Luke 140) USA, Austin O'Connor (Colorado Blue) Ireland, Doug Payne (Quantum Leap) USA, Caroline Powell (Greenacres Special Cavalier) New Zealand, Tim Price (Falco) New Zealand, and Oliver Townend (Cooley Rosalent) Great Britain. Six previous 5 Star winners are in the field, including Martin, Price, this year's Burghley winner Townend, as well as Dutton, Fox-Pitt and Powell."

Image courtesy of WBALTV



Complementing the equestrian competition will be the Maryland Corgi Cup, presented by Major League Eventing, pitting the region's fastest corgis against each other on Sunday with Preliminary Heats beginning approximately at 8 a.m. and the Final Rounds and Championship held between the 3 Star and the 5 Star competitions as the corgis race across the Fair Hill Turf Track. Shetland and Lead Line Pony Racing events will take place on Saturday between the 3 Star and the 5 Star also along the Fair Hill Steeplechase Turf Track.

Live music will be performed on the Reyka Stage located behind the Aintree Grandstand next to the Wellwood restaurant Thursday through Sunday. The all-new Kids Zone will feature the Milburn Orchard Games and Straw Maze, Stick Horse Arts & Crafts, Hannimal Farm Petting Zoo to complement the return of the incredibly popular MARS VIPet and a Work to Ride Polo Demonstration on Saturday throughout the day.

Loads of retail shopping and food vendors, including the Sawmill Crab Shack, hosted by The Wellwood, will be serving up steamed crabs, shrimp, oysters and more. The Beer, Wine and Spirits Showcase by Bog Turtle Brewery & Elk River Brewing Company will take place Saturday, and a Fresh Food Fest hosted by Upper Shore Regional Council (Sunday) will highlight the weekend. On Friday and Sunday, a Hall of Champions, featuring some of the most well-known and locally-based horses in multiple disciplines to ever compete, will be held in the Hill Side area and a Rescue Dog Parade will be held Sunday morning as well.

Please visit www.maryland5star.us/ and social media @Maryland5Star for updates on entries and weather.

"On the other end of the spectrum there are five 5 Star first timers looking to prove themselves: Arielle Aharoni (Dutch Times) USA, Mia Farley (Phelps) USA, Jacob Fletcher (Fabian) USA, Sarah Kuhn (Mr. Cash Van De Start) USA, and Andrew McConnon (Ferrie's Cello) USA," *The Chronicle* concluded.

Rounding out the field are: Zachary Brandt (Direct Advance) USA, Jennie Brannigan (Twilightslastgleam) USA, Bruce Davidson, Jr. (Sorocaima) USA, Cornelia Fletcher (Daytona Beach 8) USA, Matthew Flynn (Wizzerd) USA, Emily Hamel (Corvett) USA, Lillian Heard Wood (LCC Barnaby) USA, Hannah Sue Hollberg (Capitol HIM) USA, Erin Kanara (Campground) USA, Piggy March (Brookfield Cavalier Cruise) Great Britain, Bobby Meyerhoff (Lumumba) USA, Lexi Scovil (Chico's Man VDF Z) USA, Booli Selmayr (Millfield Lancando) USA, Sydney Solomon (Early Review C), and Monica Spencer (Artist) New Zealand.

Also competing during the weekend will be 150 riders and horses from the USA, Canada, Australia, Peru, Belgium and Ecuador in the 3 Star (CCI3*-L) competition featuring the USEF National Championship and Young Event Horse (YEH) USEA East Coast Championships, presented by Dubarry of Ireland. The 3 Star competitors will ride at 9 a.m. on Thursday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Dressage, cross-country and show jumping 5 Star competition begins at 1 p.m. each day. Start times and competition entries are subject to change due to injury or other unforeseen circumstances.

The 5 Star competition of the event will be broadcast live by Maryland Public Television (regional coverage) and via livestream by Horse & Country (international coverage) for all four days. The USEF Network will provide full coverage via livestream of both the 3 Star and 5 Star for all four days as well.

And new for 2023, MD5Star Radio powered by Brown Advisory will be available. Fans will have the opportunity to purchase a radio (earpiece) in advance of and during the event (based upon availability) and listen to all the same commentary from the live broadcasts and stream throughout the competition.

Eclipse Sportswire photo

Christmas morning devastation

Equine Veterinary Care at Fair Hill

Parlo II: Built Back Better

On Christmas Eve 2021, a tragic fire totally destroyed Equine Veterinary Care (EVC) at Fair Hill and the adjoining barn of its partner, trainer Michael Matz. Although the fire fortunately injured no horses or people, it left both businesses homeless for 18 months.

Fair Hill-based trainer Graham Motion and his wife, Anita, immediately stepped in to help, and EVC transitioned to an ambulatory practice based at the Motion farm while Matz leased stalls from Fair Hill Training Center's Chevation I owner Kelly Rubley upon his return in April 2022.

It was worth the wait. On August 21, more than 300 people celebrated the reopening of Parlo II with EVC founding veterinarian, Kathleen Anderson DVM, Matz, and Daniel Glick, Owner/Partner of B&D Builders, who constructed the building.

"It seemed like Santa brought us coal for Christmas," Dr. Anderson quipped about the fire in a recent interview with the *Bugle*. "Seriously though, we know very little about what happened that evening other than both Michael Matz (in Florida) and I (in Massachusetts) received a phone call that the barn was on fire and completely destroyed despite the best efforts of the many fire departments that responded. Ultimately fire investigators were unable to confirm a cause, however they did report that in approximately 80 percent of barn fires, no cause is determined – little solace for our loss.

"We remain very grateful for the support of our friends and clients over this period and are excited to be back," Dr. Anderson added.

After stepping into the shoes of Dr. Fritz Oppenlander upon his retirement, Dr. Anderson founded EVC @ Fair Hill Training Center in 1993. "EVC grew with Fair Hill over the years and after Michael Matz approached me in 2003 about partnering with him on the construction of Parlo II, we transitioned from ambulatory to an intermediary care outpatient facility in 2005."

Today the practice employs five veterinarians and six support staff who specialize in Thoroughbred and Performance horses and offer a wide variety of advanced diagnostic and treatment modalities.

Dr. Kathy Anderson

Widely-regarded as one of the nation's leading horsemen, Michael Matz is a former U.S. Olympic Equestrian Team medalist who was inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame in 2006. Later as a Thoroughbred trainer, his most notable wins were the 2006 Kentucky Derby with Barbaro, the 2006 Breeders Cup Distaff with Round Pond, and the 2012 Belmont Stakes with Union Rags, in addition to many other races.

The new facility is striking for its soaring ceilings and open, airy stalls. "Our design was pretty similar to the previous building – we were limited to the original footprint but we integrated new technologies such as the Kalwall ceiling and the Big Ass fans to provide the natural light and great ventilation we wanted into the barn portion in addition to improved bulk storage for hay and straw," Anderson said. "The shed row has always been phenomenal and the stalls are well drained with excellent airflow and safety. The veterinary clinic was reconfigured to double our treatment stalls, move the entrance to the front of the building, and the second floor was finished to provide a wonderful conference/meeting room that we hope will serve as a hub for the Fair Hill community," she added.

"We plan to host English Second Language classes in the near future as well as provide a venue for continuing education and regional meetings such as the NSA Stewards Seminar meeting held in mid-September," she continued. "On the veterinary side, in addition to a full-service veterinary facility including a federally-accredited Coggins lab, we have created space for a standing CT we plan to install in spring 2024 – this project is near and dear to my heart and to the future of safety in racehorses so stay tuned.

"We had observed B&D Builders in multiple nearby construction projects both on and off Fair Hill so when it came time to pick a contractor they were an easy choice," she continued. "B&D has deep building experience and trades expertise in quality barns and residences providing the crossover we needed to complete a top quality barn and veterinary clinic combination. Their team brought many innovative ideas to the table (like the Kalwall system) and were able to continue to problem solve through the construction process – in some ways it was more difficult than the original construction as we had to work with pre-existing utilities (septic/wells/power & gas lines) that were often hard to locate on the post-apocalyptic building site. The entire B&D team were wonderful to work with on all fronts – their work ethic is undeniable and the pride of workmanship from roofers to block layers shows in the quality of the finished product.

"Parlo II was Michael's idea –EVC has provided veterinary care to Michael's racehorses from 1998 when he arrived at Fair Hill to present," Dr. Anderson continued. "He approached me with a vision of a win-win partnership on the Parlo II building site and we took it from there. Parlo II was created as an LLC with all the usual legal agreements and it is certainly a feat in today's world that we have yet to have a dispute on any level of the operating agreement. The fire tested the mettle of both our business operations but thanks to excellent insurance coverage under Fair Hill Condominium Association, we have been able to recover and occupy our new and improved building," she concluded.

B&D Builders Owner/Partner, Daniel Glick, said, "B&D Builders was proud to be a part of the 'Build Back Better' effort that Michael Matz and Dr. Kathleen Anderson set in motion when they planned and rebuilt the facility. The result is a world-class facility that will serve the industry well for many years to come."

Framing is up!

Soaring ceilings contribute to the open air spaces

Plentiful windows and fans make for healthy air flow through the spacious box stalls

EVC staff horsing around in their new digs

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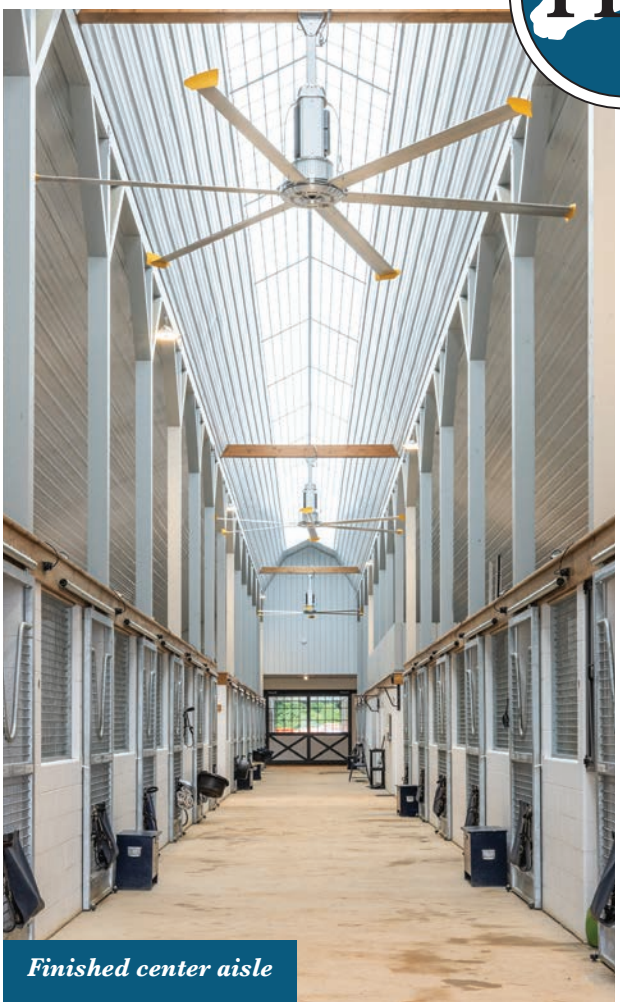

Finished center aisle

Michael Matz and a barn favorite

West Entrance

North Main Entrance

Why The Gardners Love Fair Hill

By Rick Abbott

Tim and Nina Gardner were married while in medical school. They spent the first few years of married life at Johns Hopkins Hospital as residents in Cardiac Surgery for Tim and Pediatrics for Nina. After traveling the globe during Tim's military commitment and further surgery training, they returned to Johns Hopkins and settled in Maryland's Worthington Valley to raise their family. Family in Glyndon inevitably led to Nina's re-involvement with the horses she had loved in her youth and to Tim's introduction into country life and foxhunting.

Through Pony Club for their children and foxhunting for themselves they were, naturally, introduced to the beauty and vastness of the Fair Hill Natural Resource Area. Nina competed in Horse Trials put on by the Fair Hill International Committee and their children competed in Pony Club rallies held on the 5,000-acre site.

In 1993, Tim took a position at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania necessitating a move to Unionville, Pennsylvania and putting them in even closer proximity to Fair Hill. On the new Welcome Here Farm, they continued their active involvement with a variety of equine activities; breeding Thoroughbreds for the market as well as their own racing stable; owning a few homebred steeplechase horses; and, with the help of then-Australian Olympian Phillip Dutton, becoming deeply involved in the world of international three-day eventing.

Their race horses were trained at Fair Hill, at first and briefly by Michael Matz and then for many years by Liz Merryman. Even with their trainers getting only the unsalable prospects, they had great success breeding a number of stakes winners and solid allowance horses.

Nina and Tim Gardner with Jennie Brannigan, Phillip Dutton, and Lynn Symansky – who have all ridden Gardner horses – at the Great Meadow International FEI Nations Cup.

USEA/Leslie Mintz Photo

Once done racing, the horses would be turned over to Dutton for a second career in a sport that suited each horse's ability. Among those which made the switch were Maryland Bred House Doctor on which Phillip won the team Gold medal at the 2000 Sidney Olympics and Sky's Prospect a winner of the Fair Hill International.

In the late 90's Nina was asked to serve on the Fair Hill International Board. That group organized all of the horse trials and three day events held at Fair Hill from the time that the Chesterland Event gave up its dates until the present time.

In 2011, after many successful years supporting Phillip Dutton, Tim and Nina decided to begin backing Jennie Brannigan (now Jennie Saville), a promising young event rider who had come up under Phillip's mentorship. Riding for the Gardners, Jennie has become a force to be reckoned with in the international three-day eventing world. In 2014 she won the Fair Hill 3 Star event overtaking Olympian Boyd Martin with a clean stadium round on Nina and Tim's Cambalda.

Nina and Tim's involvement with Fair Hill has only grown over the years. When Nina withdrew from active involvement with the Fair Hill International Board, Tim took a seat on that Board. When Sam Slater and Jay Griswold formed the Fair Hill Foundation to begin spearheading the bid to hold a 5 Star event at Fair Hill, Tim enthusiastically joined its Board of Directors and is currently its Vice Chair under Charlie Fenwick. He is also a member of the Maryland 5 Star Advisory Committee which, in collaboration with the Fair Hill International organizing committee, puts on the international Maryland 5 Star each October.

October of 2023 will be no exception to Nina and Tim's intense involvement in Fair Hill. At the highest level, in the 5 Star competition they will be represented by Twilightslastgleam, a homebred who won at the 4 Star level in Bromont, Canada last year; Amazing Anthem another home grown product of their breeding program in the 3 Star; and yet another homebred Grand Finale in the Young Event Horse division. All three are products of Nina's recently deceased stallion National Anthem.

Tim Gardner in front of the new turf track at Fair Hill

Jim Graham Photography

For the Gardeners many years of service and support to equestrian pursuits, they were recently inducted into the US Eventing Association Hall Of Fame. Tim modestly deflects all honors and praise to Nina who is the driving force behind their equine activity; however, Tim's counsel and guidance have been invaluable to the overall sport and to Fair Hill in particular.

Both Nina and Tim see Fair Hill and their involvement there as the place where all of their varied horse interests come together. Having recently returned from Burghley, England, perhaps the most challenging event in the world, Tim compares the terrain at Fair Hill favorably with that most difficult of venues. Whether Pony Club for their children; foxhunting for the family; training for their Thoroughbreds and steeplechasers; or, most importantly, a place for their world class eventers to compete at the highest level of the sport; the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area is heaven on earth for all their activities.

News and Notes

The Fair Hill Foundation congratulates Anita Motion, wife of Board of Directors member, Graham Motion, and the whole team on a successful Real Rider Cup event at Fair Hill

Following another successful showing in Lexington, KY in July, the Real Rider Cup returned to its home in Fair Hill to complete the 2023 series of events on September 15, welcoming 21 horse and rider combinations along with hundreds of spectators to Fair Hill Thoroughbred Horse Show for an evening of lively competition and entertainment. Created by Anita Motion, the charity show jumping competition brings together personalities from across the breeding and racing industry to increase awareness and raise funds for Thoroughbred aftercare, with each rider pledging to raise at least $1,000.

"We are thrilled to see how well received the Real Rider Cup has been by both the racing and equestrian industries," said Anna Ford, Thoroughbred Program Director at New Vocations. "The event is a true testament to how athletic these Thoroughbreds are and that they love having a job beyond the track. The funding raised is much needed and will help a lot of horses as they transition into new careers."

Riders mounted on off-track Thoroughbreds and wearing the silks of their employers, colleagues, and clients contended a winding course of fences with the fastest clear rounds taking home top honors. Connections and institutions represented included Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Country Life Farm, Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, Winstar Farm, Sienna Farm, Klaravich Stables, Maryland Jockey Club, Graham Motion, Tom Morley, Chad Brown, an entire team from equine veterinary clinic Sports Medicine Associates of Chester County (SMACC), and more. The field of horses included black-type runners Flash McCaul, Ninety One Assault, Call Provision, Nakamura, and GI winner Sermon of Love, who was trained by the recently departed Johnathan Sheppard. Olympic Show Jumping Silver Medalist (Atlanta 1996) and Kentucky Derby-winning trainer (Barbaro, 2006) Michael Matz led a course walk for competitors and WBAL's Radio Baltimore's Scott Wykoff served as emcee, providing color commentary.

Returning after serving on last year's winning Fair Hill team, junior Jaidyn Shore, riding multiple stakes placed Grandiflora and wearing the silks of the gelding's trainer Ann Merryman, put in a quick and tidy round to clinch the individual win. Awards were given for individual results, team results, and a Highest Earner award for the individual whose fundraiser garnered the highest total as of the conclusion of the event.

– *The Paulick Report*

Jesslyn Woodall on Storm Threat won the 2023 Real Rider Cup in Lexington

Wendy Wooley/Equisport Photos

Eclipse Sportswire photo

A Message from Charlie Fenwick

With Year Three of the MARS Maryland 5 Star presented by Brown Advisory at Fair Hill rapidly approaching, there is great excitement in this beautiful 5,000-acre corner of Maryland. Top-notch competitors from the United States, Great Britain, New Zealand and Ireland will vie for this year's title and the action promises to be thrilling from start to finish. The Fair Hill Foundation is proud to have supported the 5 Star in its infancy and we are pleased that the organization has become its own 501(c)3 nonprofit. We invite you to purchase tickets through the Maryland 5 Star website: maryland5star.us and to experience firsthand all the exhilaration of the weekend. It is truly a jewel in Maryland's crown.

We congratulate Kathleen Anderson, DVM and Equine Veterinary Care and her partner, Olympian and acclaimed Thoroughbred trainer Michael Matz, on the completion of their spectacular new facility. Constructed by B&D Builders, it is one of the most beautiful barns we have ever seen and all of us in the Fair Hill community are proud to witness its rise from the ashes of the tragic Christmas Eve 2021 fire.

The Real Rider Cup at Fair Hill, organized by Anita Motion and her team, demonstrated how versatile Thoroughbreds whose racing days are behind them can be. Hats off to all!

Finally, Rick Abbott's tribute to Nina and Tim Gardner beautifully captures the couples' love of Fair Hill. As Vice President of the Fair Hill Foundation, Tim personifies thoughtful, wise and prudent leadership and we are very grateful to have them both involved with us.

As we work with the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Sports & Entertainment Corporation to bring racing back to Fair Hill, we are developing plans to raise funds to enhance the facilities here to make turf and timber racing the best it can be. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Charlie Fenwick in the Fair Hill paddock in the 1970s

All the best,

Charles C. Fenwick, Jr.

President
Board of Directors

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The Fair Hill Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Documents and financial statements submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Solicitation Act and the Commonwealth of Virginia Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs are available upon written request.

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