

TWO NJ STARS COLLECT DAN PATCH TROPHIES

A pair of New Jersey-sired horses, Mission Brief by Muscle Hill and Rocklamation by Rocknroll Hanover, collected divisional honors at the Dan Patch Awards Banquet on February 22, 2015 in Orlando, FL.



Mission Brief, out of Southwind Serena by Varenne, received 150 of 157 votes to win Two-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year honors. Rocklamation, who is out of the Artsplace mare Art Sale, finished in a deadheat with Anndrovette, with each receiving 51 votes in the balloting.

Trained by Ron Burke and driven by Yannick Gingras, Mission Brief was bred by Steve Stewart, Black Creek Farm and Andrea Lea Racing

Stables. She is owned by Burke Racing, Our Horse Cents Stable, J&T Silva Stables and Weaver Bruscelli LLC.

She wrapped up her 2014 campaign with nine wins in 13 starts for earnings of \$591,070, winning the Breeders Crown, Merrie Annabelle and New Jersey Sire Stakes Final, all at the Meadowlands.

Bred by Perretti Farms, Rocklamation also was trained by Burke and driven by Gingras. She is owned by Our Horse Cents Stables, Stable 45 and J&T Silva Stables.

In 2014, Rocklamation posted four wins, five seconds and two thirds in 18 starts, adding \$517,364 to her career bankroll of \$2,255,493. Her wins included a pair of Meadowlands stakes, the Lady Liberty and the Golden Girls, and the Artscape at Vernon Downs. Through five seasons of racing, she has 23 wins, 23 seconds and 15 thirds from 97 starts.



Connections of Mission Brief [top] and Rocklamation [bottom].
—Photos by Mark Hall for USTA

LUCHENTO TO PRESIDE OVER HHI MEETINGS

Tom Luchento, president of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey, will also carry the mantle of president of Harness Horsemen International when the group convenes for its annual meetings, starting Sunday, March 1, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Deerfield Beach Resort & Spa in Deerfield Beach, FL.

Luchento is in the second year of his three-year term as president of the organization that represents horsemen's groups in North America.

The featured speaker at the conclave will be Dr. Mary Robinson, director of the PennVet Equine Pharmacology Laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center. She will speak on the topic of "Equine Drug Testing in the 21st Century."

At the March 4 Awards Luncheon, HHI Past President Gene Oldford will receive the 2014 Dominic Frinzi Person of the Year; Jerry Knappenberger, the former general manager of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, will collect the 2014 HHI Appreciation Award and Derick Giwner, harness racing editor of the *Daily Racing Form*, is the 2014 Clyde Hirt Media Award winner.

From the Desk of President Tom Luchento

Apparently it was not as easy as ABC.

While ABC classified racing was well-received by the betting public at the Meadowlands, it was less popular with many trainers in our membership.

So on January 23, we met with Meadowlands Chairman Jeff Gural and agreed to suspend ABC racing and return to condition racing.

In many instances, ABC racing was making for exciting and competitive fields, at least until the entry box softened, and there were not enough entries in each class.

We heard your concerns and took the appropriate action to return to condition racing.

We have always been willing to explore any strategy that would bring about the

best possible racing at the Meadowlands. Until we have slots revenue, which I feel is not far off, we have to be responsive and creative to whichever concepts will fill the entry box and provide the full, competitive fields that are the hallmark of the Meadowlands.

We hope these changes are reflective of both the needs of the trainers and the race office. The SBOANJ and the Gural team are partners in making the Meadowlands a success and look forward to a return to the glory days of harness racing in East Rutherford.

The trainers' rewards program, instituted in 2014 to provide preferences to trainers who supported the spring and summer racing programs, was also dropped.

STANDARD BRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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FATHER PATRICK & TRIXTON JOIN NJ STALLION RANKS IN 2015

Hambletonian winner Trixton and Three-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year Father Patrick have joined the New Jersey stallion ranks in 2015.

Nine stallions – five pacers and four trotters - are currently registered in the Garden State.



Trixton

Takter as a four-year-old while also standing at Walnridge Farm of Cream Ridge, NJ, for a fee of \$30,000. His book is nearly full with only a few bookings available.

The son of Cantab Hall closed out his three-year-old campaign with a victory in the \$500,000 Breeders Crown, compiling a record of 12 wins and three seconds in 17 starts for earnings of nearly \$1.7 million.

Lifetime, Father Patrick has 22 wins and four seconds from 28 starts and earnings of \$2,437,138 with a mark of 1:50.2. He is owned by the Father Patrick Stable of East Windsor, NJ.

Trixton, the New Jersey Standardbred of the Year, stands at Deo Volente Farms in Flemington, NJ, for a fee of \$12,000. The Jimmy Takter trainee is owned by the Trixton Syndication. His book for 2015 is full.

At three, the son of Muscle Hill won eight of 11 starts and retired with a career record of 12 wins, two seconds and two thirds from 19 starts for earnings of \$947,057 and a mark of 1:50.3.

Father Patrick remains in training with



Father Patrick

Photos by Lisa Photo Inc.

2015 NEW JERSEY REGISTERED STALLIONS

Stallion	Gait	Fee	Farm Standing	Farm Manager	Phone
Great Vintage	P	\$2,000	Walnridge Farm	Dr.Richard Meirs	609 758-8208
Hurrikane King Cole	P	private	Walnridge Farm	Dr.Richard Meirs	609 758-8208
If I Can Dream	P	\$3,500	Deo Volente Farm	Fidencio Cervantez	908 782-4848
Lis Mara	P	private	Deo Volente Farm	Fidencio Cervantez	908 782-4848
Philos Hanover	P	private	Last Cance Farm	Tom Cancelliere	201 726-8660
Calchips Brute	T	\$3,000	Walnridge Farm	Dr.Richard Meirs	609 758-8208
Father Patrick	T	\$30,000	Walnridge Farm	Dr.Richard Meirs	609 758-8208
Opening Night	T	private	Walnridge Farm	Dr.Richard Meirs	609 758-8208
Trixton	T	\$12,000	Deo Volente Farm	Fidencio Cervantez	908 782-4848

SETTLEMOIR SEEKING USTA PRESIDENCY

Meadowlands CEO Jason Settlemoir is challenging incumbent Phil Langley for the presidency of the United States Trotting Association.

Settlemoir is the USTA District 8 track director.

The election will take place during the Board's general session on the morning of Sunday, March 15, 2015.

USTA officers are elected by a majority vote of the Association's 60 directors.

As specified in the USTA bylaws, the Association's presidents serve four-year terms. Langley was first elected in 2003 and then re-elected in both 2007 and 2011.

Four other officers filed to retain their current seats. Running unopposed for one-year terms will be Ivan Axelrod (Chairman of the Board), Russell Williams (Vice-Chairman), Richard Brandt (Treasurer), and Barbara Brooks (Secretary).



Jason Settlemoir

NEARLY 200 MARES REGISTERED FOR NJ-SDF PROGRAM

The New Jersey Standardbred Development Fund registered nearly 200 in-foal mares this year and 221 in 2014.

The program will debut in 2016 for two-year-olds and entirely replace the New Jersey Sire Stakes – Green Acres races in 2017.

The Standardbred Development Fund series of races will be open to all New Jersey-sired horses as well as to the offspring of mares who have spent 150 consecutive days in New Jersey and foal within the state, regardless of the stallion to whom they are in foal.

"The first SDF races will be held for two-year-olds in 2016," explained Christopher Castens, executive director of the New Jersey Sire Stakes program. "We will continue to run a three-year-old Green Acres program in 2016. Beginning in 2017 all Green Acres activities will be suspended, and we will only have the Premier Division and the SDF until further notice."

LIS MARA BACK TO DEO VOLENTE FARMS



Lis Mara with Brian Sears

Lis Mara, whose career earnings in excess of \$2.1 million helped to build Deo Volente Farms in Franklin Township, NJ, has returned home after standing stud in Ontario and as a shuttle stallion Down Under.

According to the February 14, 2015 announcement from the farm, Lis Mara will "spend the rest of his days at Deo Volente Farms and will stand stud at private treaty."

"It's so appropriate that the horse who contributed so much to this farm gets to spend the rest of his days here in dignity and comfort," said Deo Volente's Mike Gulotta.

Lis Mara, a 2002 foal of Cambest – Lisheen, made 63 starts, racing from 2004 to 2007, posting 27 wins, 13 seconds and five thirds for earnings of \$2,141,661.

SPHO-NJ PRESENTS 2014 AWARDS AT ANNUAL BANQUET



Awards for 2014 were presented by the Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of New Jersey (SPHO-NJ) at a banquet on Sunday, February 15, 2015 to honor those horses who have excelled at disciplines off the track.

There were more than 200 attendees at the annual banquet that was held in the ballroom of the Holiday Inn in East Windsor, NJ.

Awards are determined by points earned by participating in horse and rider events. The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey has long been a significant sponsor of the SPHO-NJ show.

The different disciplines include: Dressage, in-hand halter classes at horse shows, riding classes at horse shows (western & English), in-harness, gymkhanas, hunter paces, demos, parades and pleasure riding.

Some of the honored horses and their riders, along with their ownership and on-track earnings, were:

- ◆ **WORLD CLASS GUY**, ridden by Jessie Santana (Middletown, NJ). Adopted from SRF by Bix DeMeo. On the track, the trotter had a mark of 1:57.2 and earnings of \$67,132. – **In-Hand and High Point SRF Adoptee**
- ◆ **INDEPENDENT ACT**, ridden by Suzanne D'Ambrose (Neptune, NJ) and Sawyer Baker (Millstone Township, NJ). Owned by Suzanne D'Ambrose. Indy is a trotter who took a mark of 1:55.4 and earned \$61,110 on the track. – **Showmanship, Leadline and Pace, Chase & Hunt, Grand Champion**
- ◆ **BIG BIKKIES** ridden and owned by Maria Andersson (Allentown, NJ]. The trotter posted a mark of 1:52.1 and earned \$201,014 while racing. – **Two-Gait Pleasure and In Harness**
- ◆ **GLISSADE**, ridden by Destiny Sheard and Shyanne Sheard (both of Jackson NJ). Unraced trotter. Owned by Rob Pennington. - **Star Lantern Memorial Award**
- ◆ **JAMBALAYABAR MAN**, ridden by Helene Gregory (East Windsor NJ), Destiny Sheard and Shyanne Sheard (both of Jackson NJ). Owned by Helene Gregory. JM is an unraced trotter. – **High Point Standardbred and Star Lantern Memorial Award**
- ◆ **DESQUITE**, ridden and owned by Danielle Loonan (Shamong, NJ). The pacer took a mark of 2:01.1 and earned \$613 while racing. – **Three-Gait Pleasure and Hunter**

The Star Lantern Award is a perpetual trophy presented to the high point junior rider. The Ferguson family sponsors the trophy in memory of their horse, Star Lantern, who was shown by Taylor Ferguson. The 2014 award went to sisters Destiny and Shyanne Sheard, who both rode Glissade and Jambalayabar Man.

SPHO-NJ and its officers expressed their thanks to all sponsors, attendees, volunteers, and those who donated to the auctions.

For more information about SPHO-NJ, visit standardbredpleasurehorse.org and [facebook.com/SPHONJ](https://www.facebook.com/SPHONJ). New members and their standardbreds are welcome.

NJ BREEDERS AWARDS PRESENTED TO TRIXTON & DEO VOLENTE

Hambletonian winner Trixton received the 2014 Secretary of Agriculture's Trophy as New Jersey Standardbred of the Year and Deo Volente was saluted as New Jersey Breeder of the Year at the 58th Annual New Jersey Breeders Awards Luncheon on January 25, 2015 at Charley's Other Brother in Eastampton Township, NJ.



Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Al Murray, on the left, presented the 2014 New Jersey Standardbred of the Year Award for Trixton to Takter Stable Assistant Trainer Per Engblom and his wife, Maria. Also in the photo was New Jersey Sire Stakes' Chris Castens. [Photo courtesy of the Department of Agriculture]

The Breeders Committee of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey selected Michael Gulotta's Deo Volente Farms of Franklin Township, NJ as the 2014 New Jersey Standardbred Breeder of the Year.

Previous New Jersey Breeder of the Year honorees include three-time winner White Birch Farm, two-time winner Perretti Farms, Valley High Stables, Southwind Farms, Kentuckiana Farms, Fair Winds Farm, Walnridge Farm and Heritage Hill Farms.



SBOANJ Director Mark Mullen [third from the left] presented the 2014 New Jersey Breeder of the Year Award to Deo Volente's Mike Gulotta. In the photo are, left to right, Craig Lipka, Madeline Gulotta, Mark Mullen, Mike Gulotta, Sue Agopian, Dave Miller and Kal Basu. [Photo by Leo McNamara]

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TETRICK REPRESENTS USA IN WORLD DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP



Tim Tetrick

Tim Tetrick, who has led North American harness racing in driver earnings for the past seven years in a row, represented the United States in the 2015 World Driving Championship in New South Wales, Australia, from February 21 through March 1, 2015.

The SBOANJ sponsored his travel expenses.

Hall of Famer John Campbell presented Tetrick with red, white and blue racing colors in a ceremony in the winner's circle at the Meadowlands on Thursday night, February 5.

Tetrick won the first event in the competition on February 21 and continued to do quite well. But through 19 events [as of February 27] and with only one more race to go, New Zealand representative Dexter Dunn has the lead with 183 points, and, in the battle for second, France's Tony Le Beller has 140, Tetrick has 137, Finland's Mika Forss has 135 and Canada's Jody Jamieson has 131.

The last stop is where the event began, Tabcorp Park in Menangle for the 20th and final heat on March 1.

Photo by Lisa Photo

SRF FUNDRAISING WITH STALLION BREEDINGS



The Standardbred Retirement Foundation is offering 2015 breedings for sale to a large group of stallions to raise funds to care for the nearly 200 horses currently in the group's care.

The list of available stallions include: Fred and Ginger, Chapter Seven, Yankee Cruiser, Stormin Normand, Shark Gesture, Rock N Roll Heaven, Lucky Chucky, Big Stick Lindy, Real Desire, Straight Shooting, and Running Book.

The revenue generated by the sale of these breedings helps provide for the care, boarding, feeding, veterinary, farrier, dental, worming, rehabilitation and re-training of more than 198 standardbreds, including 125 who are retired due to age or injury.

To donate or purchase a breeding please contact Tammy Hollock at 732-446-4422 or email admin@srfmail.com. The SRF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization and gifts to SRF are tax-deductible .

SBOANJ STAKES PAYMENTS DUE ON MARCH 15

Payments for several of the stakes sponsored by the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey are due on March 15, 2015.

Sustaining payments of \$900 for colts and \$600 for fillies are due for the 2015 Anthony Abbiello New Jersey Classic and Thomas D'Altrui Miss New Jersey. The first two-year-old payments for the 2016 editions of both stakes are also due - \$600 for the open and \$400 for fillies.

First payments for two-year-olds pointing to the 2016 Helen and Charles Smith Trots and 2015 Harold and Marion Dancer Trots are \$250 each.

The three-year-old payments for New Jersey Futurity #49 [\$300] and first two-year-old payment for New Jersey Futurity #50 [\$200] also have a March 15 deadline.

Supplemental fees for two-year-olds are also due for the 2016 New Jersey Classic and Miss New Jersey [\$500], New Jersey Futurity #50 [\$300], 2016 Helen and Charles Smith Trots [\$400] and Harold and Marion Dancer Trots [\$400].

JOHANSSONS HAUL HOME O'BRIEN & DAN PATCH AWARDS

Trainer Nancy Takter Johansson and husband Marcus Johansson had some extra merchandise to tote across the border back to their Allentown, NJ home after the O'Brien Awards on February 7, 2015 at the Delta Meadowdale Hotel & Conference Center in Mississauga, Ontario.

JK She'salady, trained by Nancy Johansson, was honored as Canda's and Two-Year-Old Filly Pacer and Horse of the Year.

JK She'salady and the Johanssons also collected Horse of the Year and divisional honors at the Dan Patch Awards Banquet on February 22, 2015 in Orlando, FL.

"She's as perfect as they come, and I guess finishing off with Horse of the Year exemplifies how perfect she is," Nancy Johansson said of the filly.

The 33-year-old Johansson also received the Rising Star Award from the United States Harness Writers Association.

"It's nice that somebody appreciates your ability and your hard work," Johansson said. "Not everyone might admit it, but I think all people like to be recognized. It's very gratifying."

The trip to Orlando also included some vacation time for Johansson and her husband, trainer-driver Marcus Johansson, and their children, Ella and Marcus Jr.

"Marcus is a huge part of everything that goes on," Johansson said. "He's just as qualified to be Rising Star as I am. It's a lot of fun [to be together]. It's great that it happened



Marcus & Nancy Johansson

Photo by Clive Cohen, Woodbine Entertainment Group

to be in Orlando this year, and we got to have a couple of days away, and my kids got to have a little fun. They sacrifice a lot because we work crazy hours, and we're always running around."

Older female trotter Shake It Cerry, trained by Johansson's father, Jimmy Takter, received the Trotter of the Year award and older male pacer Sweet Lou, trained by Ron Burke, collected the Pacer of the Year trophy. Takter was honored as the Trainer of the Year.



Takters and Johanssons celebrate Nancy's Rising Star Award -- Photo by Mark Hall, USTA

In addition to owning JK She'salady, 3 Brothers Stables – Alan, Ronald and Steven Katz – was named Breeder of the Year and shared Owner of the Year with John Fielding.

Other honorees included Hall of Fame Joe Thomson, Communicators Hall of Fame Bob Marks and Kathy Parker, Stan Bergstein-Proximity Award Russell Williams, Breakthrough Award Emily Gaskin and Driver of the Year Yannick Gingras.

Horses receiving awards for division honors – in addition to JK She'salady, Shake It Cerry and Sweet Lou – were 2-year-old colt trotter Pinkman, 2-year-old filly trotter Mission Brief, 3-year-old colt trotter Father Patrick, older male trotter Sebastian K, older female trotter Classic Martine, 2-year-old colt pacer Artspeak, 3-year-old colt pacer McWicked, 3-year-old filly pacer Color's A Virgin, and older mare pacers Anndrovette and Rocklamation (tie).