

March 2020
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:**
Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:**
Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:**
Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:**
Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- Racing and breeding news
- PA-Bred entries/results
- Rules, regulations, forms

CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian N. Sanfratello
Executive Secretary
execsec@pabred.com

Vicky Schowe
Asst. Exec. Sec.

701 E. Baltimore Pike, Ste. E
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: 610-444-1050
www.pabred.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gregory C. Newell, PE, *President*
Robert Graham, *Vice President*
Douglas Black, *Secretary*
David Charlton, *Treasurer*
Richard D. Abbott
Elizabeth B. Barr
Glenn Brok
Peter Giangiulio, Esq.
Kathryn Goldenberg
Roger E. Legg, Esq.
Deanna Manfredi
Elizabeth Merryman
Henry Nothhaft
Thomas Reigle
Dr. Dale Schilling, VMD
Charles Zacney

Bartkowski and Bunker bringing up babies

by Emily Shields

A quarter century ago, Cindy Bartkowski could not have guessed that she would ever be involved in horse racing. She and her partner of 30 years, Scott Bunker, were living on a seven-acre farm and happily raising Arabians and performance Quarter Horses, mostly reining and working cow horses.

The couple needed a bigger farm, but it took three years to find the 81-acre New Jersey spread where they now reside, just three and a half miles away from their original farm. That move kicked off a chain of events that led them into the world of Thoroughbred racing.

“As we moved to the new farm, I was able to help a senior citizen – Dan Foster – with his Thoroughbred broodmares,” Bartkowski said. “He had them scattered across several different properties and wanted to find a central place to keep them all together.”

At the time, Bartkowski and Bunker had no experience with Thoroughbreds. “I almost didn’t want to be involved, because I had heard all the things people say about them when they don’t have first-hand experience: that they are crazy, and high strung. But I felt compelled to help this kindly gentleman



Cindy Bartkowski (right) and Scott Bunker (center), breeders of 2018 stakes winner Delta Express, were the recipients of a PHBA stakes award.

out, and it turned out all three horses were quite lovely. I had so much fun working with a different breed.”

Two years later, Foster had acquired half-sisters named Spunky Sparrow and Red Bank Robin, both out of the Robin Des Pins mare Robin the Rich. Bartkowski loved to listen to Foster discuss his charges, and ended up helping groom Foster’s 2-year-olds at the training facility down the street. “He just loved them, and had such a passion for them,” she said.

A serious health scare cropped up and ended Foster’s time in the sport of racing. “That’s how we ended up in the business,” Bartkowski said. “It was a blessing in disguise for us.”

Around the same time, a neighbor with Thoroughbreds on an adjoining farm passed away, and Bartkowski and Bunker inherited one of his broodmares, as well. Their first foal was a Weigelia colt named Our Georgio who, "Didn't want to be a racehorse, but he's loving life as a show horse."

Enter Mr. Monster, a homebred son of Political Force out of Spunky Sparrow. The gray or roan gelding won three of 18 starts with seven top three finishes, all in Pennsylvania. "He was a super racehorse who gave us millions of dollars of thrills," Bartkowski said. "He brought home a check in every single race."

Although their Birchwood Farm is in New Jersey, Bartkowski and Bunker quickly discovered the benefits of the Pennsylvania breeding program. Now their mares foal in the Keystone State before returning to their New Jersey base for the babies to be raised.

"I've always felt that every baby needs boot camp training, no matter the breed or discipline," Bartkowski said. "They learn how to lead, accept a halter, pick their feet up, stand for fly spray, and load on a trailer comfortably. We first started our Thoroughbreds doing the same basic stuff we had been doing with our other breeds, but we've added more stuff as we went along."

Now their foals get acclimated to motorized vehicles, with Bartkowski driving tractors through the barn, and using a leaf blower to clean the aisles. The horses are taught to both cross tie and stand on a single tie, and recently they've been introduced to a treadmill. "These are the bare necessities that will carry on no matter what discipline the horse goes into," she said. "I call them my five-minute mini-lessons. They are getting constant schooling about manners: don't kick, don't drag, don't rear, those kinds of things. I think by the time they go to the sale every October

they are in pretty decent shape to move on to the next chapter of their lives."

The program is working. Three years after Mr. Monster was born, Spunky Sparrow foaled a Weigelia colt named Delta Express. An \$8,000 yearling purchase, Delta Express became Bunker and Bartkowski's first stakes winner when winning the \$100,000 Mark McDermott Stakes at Presque Isle Downs in 2018.

"I can't tell you how exciting that was for us," Bartkowski said. "We went to Presque Isle to see it. It was our first year of picking the stallion to breed to the mare, and we produced a black-type winner. It was like hitting the lottery for us!" Delta Express has earned \$122,169 with three wins in 13 starts.

Another horse they bred, Tomboy Tuff, is a filly by Weigelia out of Red Bank Robin. She is a two-time winner, and after being claimed recently the new owner, "couldn't rave more about the manners of the horse." Tomboy Tuff's younger half-brother by El Padrino, Fear None, was also claimed recently and Bartkowski made a point of checking on him with the new trainer. "I wanted to see if they have questions or concerns about the animal, and learn if there is anything else I can be doing to better prepare them for this stage of their life. People seem to enjoy the animals more when they come with kindness and good manners."

Bartkowski doesn't mind putting in the extra effort; now retired, she "has all the time in the world to bring up baby." She and Bunker have three broodmares, two yearlings, and two foals on the way. "Right now we're thinking we are at our limit," she said. "We are happy with it."

They love breeding to sell in Pennsylvania. "Racing commercially is nice, but I really like those mailbox checks," she joked. "This is the best chapter of my life right now, it just keeps getting better and better."

Contact Information:

State Horse Racing Commission
Harrisburg, PA • 717-787-1942

Parx Racing
Bensalem, PA • 215-639-9000

Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course
Grantville, PA • 717-469-2211

Presque Isle Downs & Casino
Erie, PA • 866-374-3386

Pennsylvania HBPA
Grantville, PA • 717-469-2970

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
Bensalem, PA • 215-638-2012



**THE PA-BRED PREMIUM
EARN MORE!**

JOIN THE PHBA

Whether you are currently a breeder or an owner, or if you are just considering getting involved in this exciting industry, there are many reasons to join the PHBA. The PHBA is devoted to those involved in Pennsylvania's Thoroughbred breeding industry. A not-for-profit organization founded in 1948, we provide a number of services to members, including informational assistance, educational opportunities and a variety of social events.

The goal of the organization is to advocate on behalf of the state's breeding industry. We are mandated by statute as administrator of the Pennsylvania Breeding Fund program, and as official registrar of the Pennsylvania-Bred roster of eligible program participants.

Working with industry leaders over the years, PHBA has achieved several goals that have brought reform and benefits to breeders, owners, racetracks and the public. The PHBA is vital to everyone involved in breeding throughout Pennsylvania. Your support and participation can help Pennsylvania's breeding industry continue to grow and prosper.



2020 Pennsylvania-Bred Stakes Schedule

	Saturday April 25	\$100,000 Page McKenney Handicap 3 & up, 7 furlongs	\$100,000 Unique Bella Stakes 3 & up, fillies & mares, 7 furlongs
	Saturday May 30	\$100,000 Danzig Stakes 3YO, 6 furlongs	\$100,000 New Start Stakes 3YO fillies, 6 furlongs
	Saturday June 20	\$100,000 Lyphard Stakes 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 ¹ / ₁₆ miles, turf	\$100,000 With Anticipation Stakes 3 & up, 1 ¹ / ₁₆ miles, turf
	Monday July 6	\$100,000 Crowd Pleaser Stakes 3YO, 1 ¹ / ₁₆ miles, turf	\$100,000 Power by Far Stakes 3 & up, fillies & mares, 5 furlongs, turf
		\$100,000 Hard Spun Stakes 3 & up, 1 mile	\$100,000 Princess of Sylmar Stakes 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 mile
PENNSYLVANIA'S DAY AT THE RACES	Saturday August 1 	\$100,000 Banjo Picker Sprint Stakes 3 & up, 6 furlongs	\$100,000 Marshall Jenney Handicap 3 & up, 5 furlongs, turf
		\$100,000 Mrs. Penny Stakes 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 ¹ / ₁₆ miles, turf	\$100,000 Storm Cat Stakes 3 & up, 1 ¹ / ₁₆ miles
		\$100,000 Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial Stakes 3 & up, fillies & mares, 6 furlongs	\$100,000 Jump Start Stakes PA-Sired, PA-Bred 3 & up, 7 furlongs
	Sunday August 30	\$100,000 Malvern Rose Stakes 3YO fillies, 1 mile	
	Monday September 14	\$100,000 Finest City Stakes 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	
	Saturday September 26	\$100,000 Alphabet Soup Handicap 3 & up, 1 ¹ / ₁₆ miles, turf	\$100,000 Plum Pretty Stakes 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 ¹ / ₁₆ miles
	Monday September 28	\$100,000 Mark McDermott Stakes 2YO, 6 furlongs	
	Wednesday November 25	\$100,000 Shamrock Rose Stakes 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	
	Saturday December 5	\$100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes 2YO, 7 furlongs	

An Important Message to the Breeding & Racing Industry



As you are aware, Governor Wolf has proposed cutting \$200 million from the Race Horse Development Trust Fund. This move is illegal and we are confident that the RHDTF will withstand this assault, but we must take every attack on the fund very seriously.

We would like to refer you to the following sections of the Trust language:

S1405.1 Protection of the Fund – Daily assessments collected or received by the department under section 1405 (relating to the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Trust Fund) are not funds of the State.

S1405.1 – The Commonwealth shall not be rightfully entitled to any money described under this section and sections 1405 and 1406.

Our Equine Coalition is made up of Breeder and Horsemen organizations throughout Pennsylvania, both Thoroughbred and Standardbred. We are hard at work with the best lobbying firms in the state to prevent this injustice from happening but we're going to need your help!

If you're involved in our program and are a resident of PA, please contact your Representative and Senator. As direct contact with him/her is the best communication vehicle, please set up a time in person at their district office and tell them your specific story and where possible, bring others with you so they can also share their potential pain.

If for some reason you cannot visit, please call, email or write. An additional call or email to the Governor's office would also be extremely helpful. Many of these communications have already been sent. If you are not a PA resident, please contact the Governor by phone or email to explain your involvement in the program and displeasure with his proposal.

Our racing industry relies on farms and other businesses to operate on a daily basis. Feed, hay and straw, vets, blacksmiths, tack, equipment and many other services. Our mark reaches to every corner of the state! Please ask them to contact their legislators as they also have a vested interest.

We understand that this action by the Governor has caused great undue stress as we move into the breeding season. We want you to know that many of the legislators already contacted have given us their unwavering support and have said they will not let this happen. Pennsylvania is one of the leading breeding states in the country and with your help we will keep it that way! Go PA!

Brian Sanfratello and the PHBA Board