

# Full Cry



February 2010

## View From The President's Den

By Jay Young

As I like to do from time to time in this column, it is time to revisit the issue of land preservation. I do so at this time partially because The Manor Conservancy is hosting a Calcutta on the eve of the My Lady's Manor race, Friday April 9<sup>th</sup>. It is very important for our club to support this event and it is time to revisit why.

There is an important and inextricable link between foxhunting and land preservation. Most, if not all equestrian sports are held in smaller venues like a show ring, a race course, a polo field or a cross country course. Those activities are generally confined to one property. Foxhunting requires miles and miles of open country in

order to be viable. It also requires the maintenance of the hunt country, clearing of trails, construction of fences and gates to provide access and a significant amount of work on a regular and consistent basis to maintain those trails and those fences. The presence of a hunt in an area tends to attract people interested in foxhunting to live in that area which becomes known as "hunt country". A natural affinity exists with farmers who also need open space. Foxhunters provide a market for hay, straw and feed and other crops. Foxhunters who are not farmers also many times are in need of a tenant for excess land not needed for pasture. The realities of viable farming in Maryland now generally require a

farmer to farm far more acreage than the farmer can afford to own. Non-farmer, non-hunter landowners also tend to appreciate the hunt because of a shared love of the land. We watch out for one another. We have a common interest. We are also deeply honored by the privilege of being able to hunt on their properties. What happens in all this is the formation of a bond, a sense of community, and a subtle common purpose. And all involved want to preserve that country way of life. The preservation agenda naturally evolves in that environment.

The Elkridge Harford Hunt Club and The Manor Conservancy are an interesting case study in this phenomenon. As you know, The Elkridge Harford Hunt Club (EHHC) was begun in 1878. Its original home was Mondawmin in Baltimore City. Development forced moves to Charles Street, also in the City, and then Timonium and eventually to Monkton, in a merger with the Harford Hunt in 1934. The Harford Hunt

### In This Issue

- President's Den
- Sycamore Meet
- Clubhouse Ceiling
- Blood Drive
- 20th Anniversary EHHC Horse Show
- Hunt Box Rentals

## Axle-Deep at Sycamore

By Joe Davies

The meet was carded at Sycamore. The ground was soft but the pending snow and cold should firm things up just perfectly by 11AM. First trailer to arrive? It was The Smythe's. They made it about 100 yards into the field and then all 12 wheels dropped down like they hit the everglades. Forward then reverse. Not more than an inch in either direction. No microphone captured the conversation between Mr and Mrs. Smythe and its probably a good thing that it didn't! Ten minutes later



the next trailer followed. Orsia and Dotty were making great progress as they crested the hill. The speedometer said 65 MPH and they were crawling under 5 MPH so imagine the plume of mud and snow hitting the trailer. They made it much farther than the Smythe's but like a polar bear frozen in the ice, they weren't moving. At this point I sensed a real problem. As the next trailer approached I was running

toward the entrance gate in full slippery booted hunting attire to try and abort further chaos. Eddie McLaughlin with a trailer long enough to hold 25 polo ponies was already committed when he mumbled out the window how poor his rig handled the slippery conditions. I was halfway through yelling, "Then don't try !!!!!!!!" when he gunned it and buried his rig, axle deep halfway through the gate with a good one third of his trailer still out on Hess Road. No more worries about anyone else getting stuck in the

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## The President's Den

(continued from page1)

was a thriving operation. Formed in 1915. It was invigorated by a large group of foxhunting transplants from Long Island who moved en masse when development choked foxhunting here. The merger was born out of an escape from development.

All was well for many decades until a plan was hatched to construct an outer beltway which would bring a major highway through the middle of the hunt country. EHHHC members and local landowners began to meet to discuss a strategy to oppose this plan. Blessed with many properties of historic significance, an effort was launched to inventory the rich historic and environmental attributes of the area which a highway would devastate. Easements were placed on the properties of willing landowners. The opposition group was formalized into The Manor Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) land trust and the Manor Area Association, effectively a large rural homeowners association which could become involved in governmental and political endeavors. The effort was successful and the highway defeated. The agenda of the newly formed entities was now to ensure that such a threat could never happen again.

The aforementioned bond among farmers, foxhunters and landowners naturally lends itself to an awareness of local activities. If someone dies, divorces or contemplates the sale of a farm, the community becomes aware of it. The Manor Conservancy has evolved into an organization that becomes proactive in these circumstances. People looking to relocate to hunt country let Conservancy members know to keep an eye out for available property. Landowners contemplating sale often contact Conservancy members first. Oftentimes marriages of like minded buyers and sellers result. There are wonderful examples of great successes. Baltimore County declared as surplus a road maintenance facility at the critical intersection of Manor and Hess Roads. Because of its traditional use it was zoned commercial and could have been a convenience store. The Manor Conservancy put together a syndicate of 13 investors and bought the property at auction. The group imposed comprehensive restrictions on the use and sold the property to Jim Juzwiak who constructed Manor Equine Surgical Center. The exterior looks like a barn and blends beautifully into the countryside. It's also pretty nice to have that facility in the area.

As a result of the death of a landowner a 170 acre farm on Old York Road we now know as Hanlon House was placed up for auction. The property could have been developed into 17 lots. The Manor Conservancy negotiated a step partnership where the number of partners who volunteered to invest increased to match increments of possible bids for the property. The night before the auction Bob Kinsley and George Bunting decided to buy the property together and agreed to cover the whole bid themselves. The property was purchased and the development rights donated to The Manor Conservancy and the Maryland Environmental Trust. When EHHHC member and hunt supporter Michael Wettach died unexpectedly, Andor Farm, an essential hunt country property passed to a trust with a fiduciary duty to maximize return. The trustees worked with the Manor Conservancy to divide the property into three parcels. One was purchased by Bob Kinsley and George Bunting, all of the development rights were retired and the land was added to Hanlon House. The remaining acreage was divided among 2 participants with the Pickett's taking the existing house and acreage and Marshall Elkins taking the balance of the land. The net result was just one more house on the 400+ acre farm.

The Manor Conservancy has Board members and contacts with expertise in law, engineering, appraising, surveying, tax issues, accounting and architecture. The Conservancy marshals these talents to help interested landowners with estate planning issues and other difficulties or goals. The conservancy and the hunt club work hand in glove to promote the common preservation goals of the community.

As a result of its efforts, over 20,000 contiguous acres have been protected from further development in perpetuity. It is impossible to estimate how many more acres comprise parcels which are not further developable. The combination results in an impressive mass of land that will likely retain its rural character forever. The end result achieves the goals and dream of the foxhunters, the farmers and those who are neither but enjoy both. In perpetuity. Make sure you attend the Calcutta at the Manor Tavern on the eve of The My Lady's Manor Race. Details will be forthcoming but mark your calendar.

## Sycamore Meet (cont'd from pg1)

field as my attention turned to the traffic now hamstrung on Hess Road. Not sure what to do at this stage I ran up to the next trailer which was driven by Master Kinsley. As we discussed whether the staff and masters could fit in the barn area, Bob was on his radio working out the logistics of bringing in a few thousand tons of crushed stone in the next twenty minutes to alleviate the problem. Fortunately for me all 10,000+ of Bob's dump trucks were otherwise engaged or my front pasture would be an all weather gravel parking lot today. Once the gravel option was eliminated quick thinking Bob gave me instructions to send half the trailers to Hess Store and half to the Manor Tavern. The hunt that followed was a bit anticlimactic after the herculean efforts most riders made just to catch the meet. The conditions got progressively more scary as the snow balled up in the horses hooves and then lost purchase on the sheer mud underneath. Geoff wisely took the hounds up after a few short runs and the Davies successfully served a fresher version of their infamous lamb stew with no subsequent deaths or serious poisonings reported as of this writing. Tally Ho !

## A Landowner Thanks Us

When John and Linda Belt, owners of JMP Painting, came to this year's Landowners' Party, John noticed that the ceiling in the front hall was in need of painting. He asked if we would like for him to paint it, at no cost to us, and of course we said yes. The painting has been completed so please try to notice the next time you come to the club. John is the son of one of the owners of a family farm in Monkton. He appreciates the party at Christmas and the tickets for the races and wanted to return the kindness. He has completed work for several club members, and has just finished at Michelle Durbin's.

*Editors note (John is the nephew of Mary Shaffer)*

## EHC SOCIAL CALENDAR 2009 -2010

### MARCH

Sun., Mar. 21, 2010 Hunter Pace T. Scarborough  
M. Sullivan

### APRIL

Sat., Apr. 3, 2010 EHC Point to Point Race  
O. Young

Sat., Apr. 10, 2010 Manor Race – Tent Party  
J. Baldwin  
Members and Landowners Appreciation  
Party  
P. Smalley

### MAY

Fri., May 7, 2010 Wrap Up Party C. Gittings



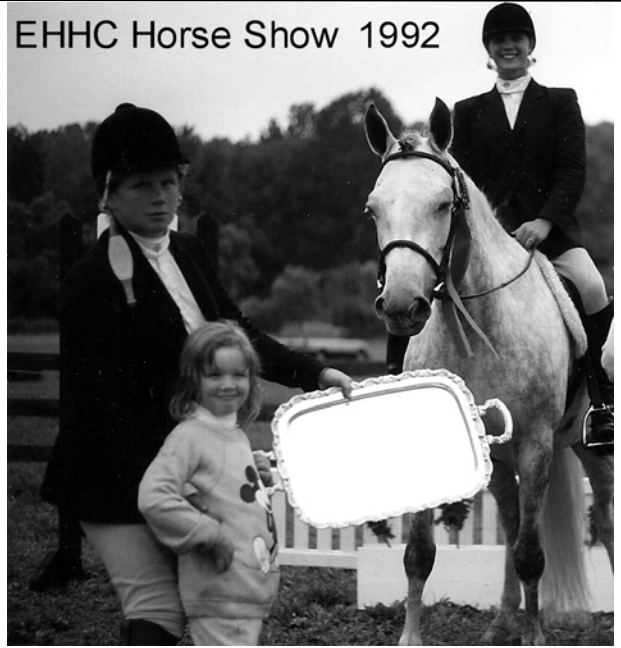
## Elkridge-Harford Hounds February 2010

Mon.. 1 <sup>st</sup>	*Sycamore 1:00 PM
Weds. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	*White Farm 1:00 PM
Sat. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Atlanta Hall
Mon. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Tranquility Manor Farm
Weds. 10 <sup>th</sup>	*Manor Hill 12:00 noon
Sat. 13 <sup>th</sup>	*Gun Powder Springs 12:00 noon
Mon. 15 <sup>th</sup>	*Foxharbor 12:00 noon
Weds. 17 <sup>th</sup>	*John Bell's Gate 12:00 noon
Sat. 20 <sup>th</sup>	The Club
Mon. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	*Autumn Ridge 1:00 PM
Weds. 24 <sup>th</sup>	*South Branch Farm 12:00 noon
Sat. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Manor Glen

All meets 11:00 A.M.  
except as otherwise noted

**Editor's Note:** Many apologies to Harry and Ellie Russell for omitting their names from the Christmas Donor List. They should have been included in the italicized groupings.

## EHC Horse Show 1992



*Guess Who? Can you identify all the individuals and the pony in the picture above? The first respondent will receive an Elkridge Harford ball cap. Response must be in writing and must include the name of the pony. Individuals above and their families are not eligible. Send your guesses to: [arcpostman@cs.com](mailto:arcpostman@cs.com). Deadline Sunday February 28th.*

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Elkridge Harford Hunt Club Horse Show

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Elkridge Harford Hunt Club Horse Show to be held on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

We have some special events planned including an Exhibitor / Volunteer Party scheduled for the afternoon of the show. This will be for anyone who has shown or helped with the show in the last 20 years.

Also we will have a gallery of photos that chronicle the history of our show. We will need help with this so please send us copies of any photos you have along with any pertinent information, names ,dates, etc.

Lastly, we will offer an opportunity to be a Blue Ribbon Sponsor of the show which will include a commemorative rosette and recognition in the program and at the show. So please mark your calendars and send us those photos!

For information about the \$100.00 Blue Ribbon Sponsorship please contact Nancy Hockaday at 410-557-9615. Send all photos to Marilyn Atterbury 3809 Beatty Rd. Monkton, MD 21111

The EHC Horse Show Committee



2760 Hess Rd.  
Monkton MD 21111



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[blakec@bgruainsurance.com](mailto:blakec@bgruainsurance.com)

## BLANKETS REPAIRED

Turnouts / Blankets /  
Horse "Wear" washed  
and repaired.

Contact Linda Nickel,  
[linda.nickel@gmail.com](mailto:linda.nickel@gmail.com)  
410-299-2848.



Sycamore Tea house is available for your weekend guests. Finely appointed 2 bedroom house @ \$ 250 night-10% discount for EHHC members contact: [jd@josephdavies.net](mailto:jd@josephdavies.net)

## The Hunt for Blood 2010

Sunday February 21, 2010 10am to 4pm

Please save the date and donate at our 3rd Annual Blood Drive. Anyone with eligibility or medical questions please contact the Red Cross at 866-236-3276.

To set up your appointment time please contact Bill Pearce at 410-472-4415 or at [wmpearce@comcast.net](mailto:wmpearce@comcast.net)

- please bring your drivers license- please drink plenty of water prior to donation- please arrive 10 minutes before your appt. time- may not have donated in the prior 56 days on or after Dec. 28 2009