

I LUV THE NITELIFE NAMED NJ STANDARDBRED OF THE YEAR

I Luv The Nitelife, one of the top pacers of the year, has been named 2013 Secretary of Agriculture's Trophy winner as New Jersey Standardbred of the Year as selected by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

I Luv The Nitelife will be among the honorees at the 57th Annual New Jersey Breeders Awards Luncheon at 1 p.m. on January 26, 2014 at Charley's Other Brother in Eastampton Township, NJ.



Miss New Jersey winner I Luv The Nitelife & friends

The daughter of the late New Jersey super stallion Rocknroll Hanover out of Lisjune had a nearly flawless campaign in 2013 on the back of a stellar two-year-old season in 2012.

I Luv The Nitelife, trained by Chris Ryder and driven in most of her starts by Tim Tetrick, has already won national divisional honors as Three-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year for 2013. She is a contender for Pacer of the Year and Horse of the Year as well.

In 2013, I Luv The Nitelife compiled a record of 13 wins, one second and one third from 15 starts, banking \$1,253,757. She has a lifetime record of 17 wins, five seconds and two thirds from 25 starts with career earnings of \$1,943,287.

The bay mare, foaled on April 23, 2010, was bred by Mike Gulotta's MJG Racing Stables of Annadale, NJ and Louis A. Willinger of Louisville, KY. She carried the name Hard Rock Deo when Floridians Richard and

Joanne Young paid \$60,000 for Hip No. 39 at the Lexington Selected Sale, but the Youngs drew on song lyrics for their name for her. Richard was drawn to the filly because he owned her Western Ideal half-brother, I'm the Pied Piper.

"He had shown talent and was injured before he made it to the races," Richard Young noted. "I Luv The Nitelife was a bigger, stronger individual than her brother and so it made sense to try the family again."

I Luv The Nitelife's 2013 season came to an end with surgery on a fractured her right knee in November.

"The operation was a success, and, with luck, she should be back in training May 1," Young said. "She will recuperate at Deo Volente Farms, where she was foaled. As long as she recovers as expected, we will attempt to race her in 2014. If things don't work out, we will breed her." [Continues on Page 5]

FREEHOLD GOES "CLASSIFIED" IN 2014

Classified racing, which debuted at the Meadowlands in 2013, has come to Freehold Raceway in 2014.



"Our faith in the switch to classified racing at the Meadowlands yielded fuller fields, more competitive racing and increases in wagering," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento.

"We expect it will work well at Freehold. Sometimes a change is needed to shake things up and make for better racing."

"I am excited for the changeover from condition rac-

ing to classified racing for both the benefit of horsemen and the patrons," said Freehold's Director of Racing Karen Fagliarone. "We will now have the ability to classify horses based on their performance and not necessarily their earnings. This will benefit our fan base, resulting in more wide open fields and fewer short payouts. I will continue to write claiming races, maiden and non-winners of three pari-mutuel races for the younger horses."

The 2014 winter meet, which opened on January 2, offers live racing on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through May 17. Additionally, the track is open for live racing on two Monday holidays - January 20 and February 17. Post time is 12:30 p.m.

From the Desk of President Tom Luchento

Sometimes people believe we are grasping at straws to think there is a bright future for racing in New Jersey. Not so.

We have little doubt we can flourish once we gain equal footing with the states that have racinos.

What we do grasp at are the comments that come out of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, and the latest reports at least give us some hope.

"It's absolutely a pivotal year [2014] because we need to make continued progress in Atlantic City, or we're going to need to start considering alternatives," Christie said at a news conference in mid-December.

As reporter Wayne Parry wrote in his coverage for Associated Press: "That means considering the once-unthinkable: allowing casinos at the Meadowlands sports complex in northern New Jersey and possibly elsewhere in the state."

Our question to the Governor is pretty simple: Why wait?

Meanwhile, we continue to pursue other options to fill the gap and help fund our purses. We are hopeful that Instant Racing, which was approved after its Senate committee hearing, will work its way to the Governor's desk, receiving his signature and support.

Responding to the complaints of horsemen, regarding to the entry preference system that was rolled out at the Meadowlands, the SBOANJ approached track

management, and it was agreed to postpone implementation until November 2014.

We want to reward the people who support the Meadowlands when the slot tracks open in Pennsylvania in March. However, it seemed there was a great deal of confusion and a lack of understanding. We need to regroup. Horsemen need advance notice on what is going to be happening. But, this postponement is just that – a postponement. We will be utilizing a preference system by November 2014, but it will not be as steep a requirement as some have feared. More details will be coming your way soon.

With the turn of the calendar, we welcome a new member to the SBOANJ board of directors, Michael J. Gulotta. He fills the breeder's seat vacated by Anthony Perretti.

Mike is the CEO of Deo Volente Farms on Quakertown Road in Flemington and a longtime horse owner. He was a former officer of the AT&T Corporation where he was chief actuary for 15 years. He founded and served as CEO of Actuarial Sciences Associates, an employee benefits consulting firm, which was acquired by Aon Corporation in 2000. He served as chairman of Aon Consulting until 2007.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!
WISHES FOR A SAFE AND PROFITABLE 2014!**

STANDARD BRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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WHITE BIRCH SELECTED BREEDER OF THE YEAR—AGAIN!

The Breeders Committee of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey has selected Michael Parisi's White Birch Farm of Allentown, NJ as the 2013 New Jersey Standardbred Breeder of the Year.

White Birch Farm [whitebirchfarmnj.com] will be among the honorees at the 57th Annual New Jersey Breeders Awards Luncheon at 1 p.m. on January 26, 2014 at Charley's Other Brother in Eastampton Township, NJ.

This will be the third time in the last 10 years that White Birch Farm, under the management of owner and general manager Michael Parisi, has collected New Jersey Breeder of the Year, having also won in 2004 and 2011.



Additionally, White Birch will be honored as the US Harness Writers Association's Breeder of the Year for the second consecutive year at the Dan Patch Awards Banquet on February 23, 2014 at Dover Downs.

This year, the 800-acre breeding farm and training center not only enjoyed success with its New Jersey-breds such as Wake Up Peter [Rocknroll Hanover-Lovely Lady; \$307,091 in 2013 earnings], I Fought Dalaw [Western Ideal-In For Life; \$151,320], Ideal Champ [Western Ideal-Female Champs; \$130,185] and In The Clear [Western Ideal-Orchid Island; \$52,140] but also produced the two leading contenders for 2013 Horse of the Year – three-year-old pacing colt Captaintreacheraus and three-year-old trotting filly Bee A Magician.



Michael Parisi

Broodmares Beehive [dam of Hambletonian Oaks and Breeders Crown winner Bee A Magician, who banked \$1.5 million in 2013] and Worldly Treasure [dam of Meadowlands Pace, North America Cup and Breeders Crown winner and double millionaire Captaintreacheraus] help to serve as the foundation of the White Birch success story.

The 2013 productivity of White Birch Farm's offspring is exemplified by 152 starters accounting for 418 wins and earnings of \$8,657,995. The earnings are third only to Hanover Shoe and Winback, which had more than 1,000 starters each.

Past champions produced by the farm founded by Joseph and Marie Parisi, included 1996 Three-Year-Old Pacer of the Year and Meadowlands Pace winner Hot Lead, 1998 Two-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year Island Fantasy, 2002 Three-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year Worldly Beauty, 2005 Two-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year My Little Dragon and 2006 Three-Year-Old

Filly Pacer of the Year Darlin's Delight.

Previous New Jersey Breeder of the Year winners were Perretti Farms [2003 and 2010], Valley High Stables, Southwind Farms, Kentuckiana Farms, Fair Winds Farm, Walnridge Farm and Heritage Hill Farms.

For tickets to the awards luncheon [\$35 per person], contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Markets & Development, Horse Industry, PO Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625 or call at 609-984-4389.

Photos courtesy of Vicki Wright

RECORD'S BRENNAN SELECTED FOR HHI'S MEDIA AWARD

Bergen *Record* columnist John Brennan has won the Harness Horsemen International's 2013 Clyde Hirt Media Award .



"I'm very appreciative of this honor, especially because my focus on horse racing has more to do with 'off-track' issues than previous winners have had," said Brennan. "I realize that the fate of the Meadowlands Racetrack has been very much a focus of standardbred horsemen throughout North America for the past five years or so. This year, progress on the track's new grandstand, as well as the legal battle by New Jersey to add Vegas-style sports betting to state tracks and casinos, have drawn numerous visitors in the industry to the *Meadowlands Matters* blog. I'll continue to try to keep everyone up to speed on what's going on off the track."

John Brennan *Meadowlands Matters* [www.northjersey.com/Brennan] was selected "Best Blog" by the New Jersey Press Association in February 2011. Brennan was also a 2008 Pulitzer Prize finalist for local news reporting for an investigative piece with co-writer Jeff Pillets. The Riverdale, NJ resident has been on the "beat" since 2002 and a reporter for the *Bergen Record* since 1983. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

"His reporting and blog, *Meadowlands Matters*, are must read for those concerned about the fate of the New Jersey horse racing industry," said HHI President Tom Luchento, who is also president of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey. "In an era of diminishing journalism, he is one of the last true reporters with a beat that embraces harness racing with equal concern to the NFL, NHL, NBA and other major sports."

SMILIN ELI & IDEAL HELEN TAKE TOP NJSS AWARDS



Smilin Eli—NJSS Final

Smilin Eli has been selected as the New Jersey Sire Stakes Premier Division Horse of the Year for 2013.

The two-year-old son of Muscles Yankee won all three of his New Jersey Sire Stakes starts at the Meadowlands, including the \$150,000 championship final in a career best 1:52.1. The Hambletonian runner-up finished in-the-money in 13 of 16 starts and banked \$740,778 in 2013 for owner-breeder Nicholas Cimino of Pompano Beach, FL.

The award for New Jersey Sire Stakes Green Acres Division Horse of the Year went to the two-year-old pacing filly Ideal Helen, winner of three major New Jersey-sired stakes races at Freehold Raceway: the \$61,900 Lou Babic Memorial Filly Final, \$52,650 New Jersey Futurity and \$25,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Green Acres Final. The Western Ideal filly earned \$125,736 for DR Van Witzenburg of Crest Hill, IL, finishing in-the-money in

11 of 15 starts.



Ideal Helen -NJ Futurity

These awards, which are voted by the New Jersey Sire Stakes Board of Trustees, are based only on performances in races for New Jersey-sired horses, including New Jersey Sire Stakes races and other New Jersey-sired major stakes and futurities. The awards will be presented at the New Jersey Breeders Awards luncheon on January 26, 2014.

Smilin Eli by Lisa Photo; Ideal Helen by Helene Gregory/WWRP

“TROTTERS” OFFERS RESERVATIONS FOR NJRC LICENSE HOLDERS

The Meadowlands' private club room, Trotters, offering private dining, fireplaces and plush seating, will be available to New Jersey licensed owners, trainers and drivers, if space permits.

Those holding Trotters membership have first priority but horsemen may reserve a spot on dates other than those blacked out for major stakes.

Blackout dates are members-only and there will be no charge for food for members on these dates.

On all other racing nights, when space is available, a New Jersey licensed owner, trainer or driver can reserve a spot at Trotters with up to three guests. The price structure per-person for non-members for the Trotters buffet is \$19.95 on Thursday nights, \$29.95 on Friday nights and \$39.95 for Saturday nights. Members of Trotters receive a \$5 discount on all nights for up to three guests.

Trotters provides a free program upon arrival and owners purchasing a buffet dinner the night their horse wins will be offered a free buffet for two in Trotters for their next visit.

“I am hopeful that providing our owners with an opportunity to spend their evening in a venue like Trotters will give them an incentive to come and watch their horse race,” said Meadowlands Chairman Jeff Gural. “Trotters provides the perfect atmosphere for owners to enjoy watching their horse race with family members and friends.”

Non-members should see the hostess in Trotters to inquire about availability while members can contact Marianne Rotella at (201) 842-5059 to reserve their priority seating. Walk-ins are welcome but reservations are preferred.

The blackout dates for non-members, through the end of the Championship Meet, are: Saturday, May 3, 2014 – Kentucky Derby Day; Saturday, July 12, 2014 – Meadowlands Pace Night; Saturday, July 26, 2014 – Hambletonian Oaks Elimination Night; and Saturday, August 2, 2014 – Hambletonian Day.

PREFERENCE SYSTEM POSTPONED UNTIL 2014

A preference system for accepting entries for overnight races at the Meadowlands has been delayed until November of 2014, it was jointly announced by the track and the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey.

The preference system would benefit stables that support the Meadowlands entry box when other area tracks are open and competing for horses. By postponing the system, the Meadowlands and the SBOANJ can provide more notice and clarify the program within the next several weeks.

The SBOANJ and the Meadowlands will track entries made by trainers at the Meadowlands from March 2014 through Hambletonian Day 2014 and compare this to entries made by these trainers at competing tracks. Those statistics will be utilized to determine preferences to race at the Meadowlands, beginning in November 2014.

ABBATIELLO & FUSCO TAKE MEET TITLES AT FREEHOLD

Driver Eric Abbatiello and trainer Vincent Fusco Jr. wrapped up meet titles when Freehold Raceway concluded its 2013 season on Saturday, December 14, 2013.

"I believe this is the third consecutive driving title for me at Freehold," said Abbatiello. "I appreciate the opportunities given to me by the trainers at Freehold."

Abbatiello held a five-win margin over Jim Pantaleano for the combined January to May and August to December meet.

Abbatiello finished the year with 173 wins at Freehold, holding off Jim Pantaleano with 168 wins. Rounding out the driving Top 5 were Steve Smith, Cat Manzi and Vincent Ginsburg.

Topping the trainer standings was Vincent Fusco Jr. with 65 wins, more than twice Nick Surick with 32 wins. Fusco's stable earned nearly \$236,000 thanks, in part, to an in-the-money percentage of 56 percent.

I LUV THE NITELIFE [Continued from Page 1]

Young and Ryder have been an owner-trainer team for several years. Among their success stories was Put On A Show, another daughter of Rocknroll Hanover, who won multiple stakes and banked more than \$2.4 million.

"Nitelite trained down nicely, [and] Chris had evaluated her as stakes caliber," he recalled. "He did not say she was another Put On A Show, but then again how could he say that? Put On A Show trained down like the best filly on the planet.

"I was a little disappointed in her first race [at two] as I guess I was expecting something more," he noted. "In retrospect, she did all she was supposed to do. When the half goes in a minute and then comes home in 55, and it's your first start against others who had been racing, I shouldn't have expected any more [she finished fourth]. She never missed the board again.

"She continued to improve, and it was her third start that showed us she belonged as a stakes filly," he added. "She finished third, but she showed she was tough. She started winning then and broke the world record in her fifth start [1:50.1 in a prelim leg of the She's A Great Lady at Mohawk]."

On May 4, 2013, I Luv The Nitelite won her season's debut in a New Jersey Sire Stakes leg at the Meadowlands, finished third two weeks later in the New Jersey Sire Stakes Final and then reeled off 12 straight victories, including the finals of the Fan Hanover, Lynch, Mistletoe Shalee, Thomas D'Altrui Miss New Jersey, Valley Forge, Simcoe, Juliette and Breeders Crown. Her 1:48.4 mile in the Valley Forge at Pocono was a world record clocking.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

January 10	Board Meeting	February 13	Board Meeting
January 24	Insurance Meeting	February 28	Insurance Meeting

NJRC AWARDS 2014 RACING DATES

The New Jersey Racing Commission approved a total of 268 racing dates for 2014 at its monthly meeting in Trenton on Wednesday, November 20, 2013.

The distribution included 81 standardbred dates at the Meadowlands and 110 standardbred dates at Freehold for a total of 191.

Thoroughbred racing will be conducted for six dates at Atlantic City Racecourse, 57 dates at Monmouth Park and 14 dates of turf racing at the Meadowlands for a total of 77 dates.

FREEHOLD RACEWAY — 110 dates

January 2 - May 17; August 28 - December 13

- ◆ Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays from January 2 through May 17 plus Monday Holidays: January 20, February 17 and September 1
- ◆ Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays from August 28 through December 13, except dark Thanksgiving, November 27

MEADOWLANDS RACETRACK — 81 dates

January 2 - August 2; November 14 - December 27

- ◆ Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from January 2 through March 8 plus Wednesday, January 22.
- ◆ Closed for Super Bowl Festivities: January 23-February 2 [open for simulcasting through January 26]
- ◆ Fridays and Saturdays from March 14 through August 2
- ◆ Fridays and Saturdays from November 14 through December 27

ATLANTIC CITY RACE COURSE — 6 dates

April 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30

MONMOUTH PARK — 57 dates

May 10 - September 28

- ◆ Saturdays and Sundays from May 10 through May 31, plus Monday, May 26
- ◆ Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from June 1 through September 28 plus Monday, September 1

MEADOWLANDS RACETRACK — 14 dates

—Turf Only—

September 18, 19, 25, 26; October 2 through October 18

- ◆ Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from October 2 through October 18 plus Monday, October 13



Market Share with Tim Tetrick in TVG FFA Final

MARKET SHARE

Revenue S - Classical Flirt - Yankee Glide

Breeder: Hayley Moore.

Owners: Richard Gutnick, TLP Stable, William Augustine.

Trainer: Linda Toscano. **Driver:** Tim Tetrick.

Races: 14-6-1-5. **Purses:** \$1.07 million. **Mark:** Q1:50.3 at Meadowlands.

Top wins: \$600,000 Breeders Crown; \$526,710 Maple Leaf; \$500,000 TVG Free For All Championship.

Photo courtesy of Lisa Photo Inc.

Market Share received 130 of 131 votes in post season balloting for Older Male Trotter of the Year for 2013, making him a back-to-back divisional honoree. Last year the New Jersey-sired son of Revenue was Three-Year-Old Trotter of the Year. He finished the 2913 season by winning the Breeders Crown Open Trot, American-National Stakes, and TVG Free for All Series Championship to lift his record to six wins in 14 starts for earnings of more than \$1 million. The Linda Toscano trainee, driven by Tim Tetrick, races for owners Richard Gutnick, TLP Stables and William Augustine.

Dan Patch Awards will be presented on February 23, 2014 at the USHWA Banquet at the Dover Downs Hotel.

INSTANT RACING BILL ADVANCES

Legislation to create Instant Racing at New Jersey's racetracks was released from committee on Monday, December 9, 2013 after SBOANJ President Tom Luchento testified on behalf of Senate Bill 2935.

The action was taken by the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee in Committee Room 7 of the State House Annex in Trenton.

"I urge you to support Senate bill S 2935," Luchento told the committee. "In late 2010, the Governor, following the recommendation of the Hanson report, moved to privatize horse racing in New Jersey. The standardbred industry secured Jeff Gural to take the Meadowlands racetrack off the state's hands. He privatized the track and built a new grandstand, modernizing and upgrading the race experience. That facility opened just two weeks ago to rave reviews. We have, as the Governor asked, taken control of our own destiny.



SBOANJ President testified before the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee in favor of Instant Racing at New Jersey's racetracks. Also shown is SBOANJ Legislative Counsel AJ Sabath.

[Photo by Carol Hodes]

"We are here today to ask your help in completing that plan," he continued. "We still lag behind the surrounding states that have alternative gaming at their tracks. We are not asking for that today but what we are asking for is a new and exciting way to wager on horse races through instant racing machines. We are not asking for anything from the state but rather just a chance to help ourselves. This would also grow the economy and add jobs to New Jersey. The revenue from our game would be put back into the purses and operational overhead to make racing self sufficient.

"We have already lost most of the breeding industry in our state, as stallions have moved to better programs in surrounding states, and, this summer, Perretti Farms announced their complete dispersal of horses and the farm will close this December 31," Luchento added. "This pari-mutuel game will give us the chance to revitalize our breeding industry and bring stallions back to New Jersey."

Instant [also known as historic] Racing permits the bettor to make wagers on races that have been previously contested. The bettor is provided data about the horses but not the names and dates.

In addition to Luchento, testimony was provided by AJ Sabath, on behalf of Jeff Gural; Dennis Drazin, representing Monmouth Park and thoroughbred horsemen; Michael Campbell for the thoroughbred breeders and Louis A. Cella, vice president and CEO of the Oaklawn Jockey Club who is also vice president of RaceTech LLC, which operates the historic/instant racing pari-mutuel racing system which debuted at Oaklawn in January 2000.

Cella pointed out that with the additional funds generated by Instant Racing, Oaklawn increased its purse distribution from \$140,000 a day in 2000 to \$400,000 a day for 2014.

Gural's statement pointed out that "Instant Racing will provide a much needed shot adrenaline to our industry by generating a consistent flow of business at the new grandstand and other tracks throughout the state, during a time when the industry is in much need of continued business. Instant Racing offers a possible new path towards a more sustainable future for New Jersey horse racing."

The bill, approved unanimously, will need to be amended to assure constitutionality and establish which agency would oversee Instant Racing, said Senator Jim Whelan, who chairs the committee.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014 ISSUE OF THE PACESETTER



The Grand Opening of the new Meadowlands on November 23, 2013 included an appearance by Gallo Blue Chip [above with Kelly Ford and Yannick Gingras] and welcoming speeches by SBOANJ President Tom Luchento [center, photo on right] with Meadowlands Chairman Jeff Gural and CEO/GM Jason Settlemoir.



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