

A Busy Time



From The Executive Corner

by SUE GREENE

October found the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association (CTBA) very busy.

On Oct. 8, many CTBA members participated in Barretts Sales & Racing's October Yearling Sale. This auction was the last opportunity to sell yearlings in California during 2013. California-breds once again performed well by securing the top five prices of the sale.

Four days later, a wonderful group of current and prospective CTBA members boarded a bus and spent a beautiful, sunny Saturday on the CTBA's Central Valley Stallion Tour.

I was fortunate to be able to attend, lending support to CTBA Past President Leigh Ann Howard, who had worked hard to have the farms prepared, the stallions ready, and keep everything moving smoothly on our tour.

The first stop was Madera Thoroughbreds, owned by Cal and Jill Fischer. Our tour group viewed their resident stallion Elusive Warning, as well as the pensioned sire Lil Tyler, who is 30 years young!

Next was Rivendell Ranch, where we were hosted by owners Myron and Jane Johnson. After we viewed the stallion Trapper, Myron demonstrated their trailer trainer designed after a similar one constructed by Leigh Ann. This device teaches horses to load safely into any trailer or large van.

Our bus arrived next at the Johnston family's Old English Rancho, where we enjoyed viewing Surf Cat, Cyclotron, Big Bad Leroybrown and Vronsky. We also were privileged to view Acclamation, the only stallion currently standing in California who is an Eclipse Award winner! Old English Rancho also treated us with some refreshments.

Our last stop was Carol Lingenfelter's Poplar Meadows, home of Bedford Falls. During a delicious lunch combined with fun raffles, we also viewed several of this sire's offspring. At the conclusion of our meal, Carol brought out Bedford Falls for all of us to admire.

All the stallions and youngsters were well-behaved and gave participants a unique opportunity to view each individual and gain insight on potential breedings. During the tour,

we educated attendees who were not CTBA members about our membership benefits. I pointed out that with a CTBA membership, one pays a lower fee to register foals, is eligible for annual racetrack passes, and receives the *California Thoroughbred* magazine and stallion directory.

Our new Golden State Series program was also discussed. The benefits of breeding and owning Cal-breds eligible for these 30 stakes races, which offer total purses of \$5.275 million, were eagerly received. It was also mentioned that several of the stallions we were visiting were being offered at the CTBA's upcoming Stallion Season Auction that benefits our Political Action Committee (PAC) fund.

Our PAC has benefited immensely from the generous donations made at our stallion auctions. Stallion seasons for 2014 have been donated by numerous farms throughout the state and will be auctioned on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Our PAC is vital for working with legislators in Sacramento. We have worked extensively in the past to educate and bring legislators to farms and the various big race days. Their response has been overwhelming, and their enthusiasm has carried back to the bills that we support or are a part of. We hope you are able to take advantage of the stallion seasons offered during our upcoming auction.

Santa Anita Park will once again host the World Championships of horse racing, Breeders' Cup, on Nov. 1-2. The CTBA and Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) will hold an "Open House" at our office on Wednesday, Oct. 30. This year will be the first time that two state-bred stakes races will be carded at Breeders' Cup. These black-type races in our Golden State Series being held on Friday, Nov 1, are the Golden State Juvenile and Golden State Juvenile Fillies. They offer a great opportunity for national recognition of our Cal-bred stakes program and the benefits of owning a Cal-bred. We are also joining the NTRA and John Deere to host a booth near Clockers' Corner during the week leading up to Breeders' Cup.

We hope to see many of you there. 🐾



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California-bred Acclamation, the 2011 Eclipse Champion Older Male and 2011-2012 California Horse of the Year, is presented to the participants of CTBA's Central Valley Stallion Tour on October 12, 2013.