

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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30TH RUNNING OF THE STEEPLECHASE AT CALLAWAY GARDENS®

When:

Saturday, November 1, 2014

What:

Steeplechase is a competitive sporting event that provides spectators an opportunity to watch the thrills, smarts and athletic ability of Thoroughbred race horses as they jump over 52" high hurdles at premium speeds. Thoroughbreds, almost all of them converted from flat racing, compete in 12 states at some 36 National Steeplechase Association (NSA) stops both in the spring and fall of every year. They have lineages proven with official Jockey Club registration papers, and are ridden by the top steeplechase jockeys in the nation.

The Steeplechase at Callaway Gardens has been one of these meets for the past 29 years. Mason Lampton, Race Chairman, was the visionary who combined his love of steeplechasing with the community's needs. "Our mission has always been to support the arts in the community, using the steeplechase as a vehicle to do so," Lampton stated. He continues, "This has proven to be a positive experience for everyone, both in the area of adding an additional sporting event which is entertaining for anyone at any age, as well as allowing us to contribute close to \$3.3 million to the arts!"

Where:

The 2-3/8 mile course near Callaway Gardens has been cited as one of the most beautiful in the United States. The 200 acre site is cradled in hardwoods and statuesque Georgia pines with rolling hills overlooking Pine Mountain Ridge. The scenery is punctuated with striking colors of the changing leaves. It is a wonderful setting for a day in the country.

2013 Proceeds:

2013 was another successful year with a distribution of \$162,000 to the Steeplechase's five beneficiaries: The Columbus Museum, The Columbus Symphony

Orchestra, The Historic Columbus Foundation, The Springer Opera House and The Ida Cason Callaway Foundation. An additional partnership with the Auburn Veterinary College of Medicine is made possible through the proceeds.

2014 Race Director:

Laura Smith Wickham is this year's Race Director and Marie Wade Arnold is the Operations Chair.

Purse:

This year's total purse for The Steeplechase at Callaway is \$160,000. "It is extremely important to keep our purse at the upper level," Lampton says, "ensuring quality horses that put on a quality show. Your race has the best trainers and riders so patrons are watching the best of the best in steeplechasing. After all, without the horses, there is no steeplechase!"

Sponsor Support:

Thanks to the generosity and long-standing support of Aflac, The Steeplechase at Callaway Gardens continues the tradition of the Aflac U.S. Supreme Hurdle Novice Series Race with a total purse of \$50,000 for this race alone. "The Steeplechase at Callaway Gardens is a high-energy, premiere event. What it has done for the arts in our region is tremendous, and Aflac is truly proud of its long association with this pre-eminent landmark in steeplechase racing," says Kathleen Amos, President of the Aflac Foundation.

Another great and faithful benefactor is Don Leebern III with Georgia Crown. He also enthusiastically embraces this Race with their sponsorship of the Crown Royal Sport of Queens Stakes. This race is for fillies and mares and carries a purse of \$50,000. "We are honored to be able to support an event of this quality in this community," Leebern stated. "It has always been a great day for me; enjoying family and friends, as well as watching the thoroughbreds compete."

Race Information: There are a total of Seven Races (Five sanctioned by the National Steeplechase Association).

- Gates Open at 10 a.m.
- Race A: Wells Fargo Advisors Perpetual Pony Race, Race at 12 p.m. Purse: \$200
- Race B: V'rooom Junior Hunter Race, Race at 12:30 p.m. Purse: \$200
- 1st Race: CB&T Sport of Kings Maiden Hurdle, Race at 1 p.m. Purse: \$25,000
- 2nd Race: Standard Concrete Products Highweight Hurdle, Race at 1:40 p.m. Purse: \$25,000

- 3rd Race: Aflac Championship Supreme Novice Hurdle, Race at 2:20 p.m. Purse: \$50,000
- 4th Race: Crown Royal Sport of Queens Hurdles Stakes, Race at 3:00 p.m. Purse: \$50,000
- 5th Race: WC Bradley Maiden Timber Race at 3:40 p.m. Purse: \$15,000

The post-race celebration is in the Winner's Circle for box holders begins immediately following the last race with live entertainment.

Race Day Activities: A variety of activities make the day even more engaging for guests. A tentative activity schedule is posted on the website. Here are some highlights:

- Silent Auction in the Race Arcade. Trips, jewelry, art, sports memorabilia and gift certificates are a sampling of items to be auctioned
- Stick Pony Races for children age 10 and younger
- Boomer 95.3 Tailgate Competition
- Ledger Enquirer "Best Box" Competition
- Southern Views Magazine sponsored Hat Contest- Winning categories are: "Most Whimsical," "Most Beautiful," and "Best Children's Hat." As part of this event, there will be a Parade of Hats that will include all the contestants
- Horseshoes Tent is an upscale lunching and entertaining area for all those in box seating. The fine fare includes wines from W.J. Deutsch Distributing. Feel free to bring your own beverages as well. TVs will be showing ballgames throughout the day for your viewing pleasure. Lunch and wine will be served 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Space is limited so buy your tickets early.
- Jack Russell Terrier Races will have three separate heats.
- The Taste of the Chase will again have Country's Barbecue, along with other concessions in the Infield offering lemonade, ice cream and funnel cakes.
- There will be a Vendor Village in the Infield featuring regional and local vendors.

Directions:

From Columbus: Take I-185 to Exit #30 at Hopewell Church Road. Drive east eight miles to State Road #18. Turn right on State Road #18. Turn right on Nelson Road and follow the signs.

From Atlanta: Take I-85 south to Exit #21 at I-185. Take Exit #34 at State Road #18. Drive east five miles to Nelson Road and follow the signs.

From Montgomery: Take I-85 north. Take Exit #21 at I-185. Take Exit #34 at State Road #18. Drive east five miles to Nelson Road and follow the signs.

Ticket Information:

Ticket pricing ranges from \$25 per person and up. Box seats range from \$325 for six to \$500 for six. Tent packages begin at \$800 for six and are available for entertaining larger families or corporate guests by calling the Steeplechase Office. Reserved Rail Packages in the Infield are \$270 for six. Single tickets or ticket packages are available for purchase online at www.steeplechaseatcallaway.org. If you would like to arrange your purchase with our staff, please call 706.324.6252.

For ticket or sponsorship information, please call Executive Director, Kim Jinks at 706.324.6252 or email: kim@steeplechaseatcallaway.org.

Overnight Packages:

Make it a weekend getaway. Callaway Gardens offer both a package with tickets and a package for those who already have tickets. For details, visit www.callawaygardens.com/steeplechase or call 1.800.463.6990.

Callaway Gardens®, is in Pine Mountain, Ga., 60 minutes southwest of Atlanta and 30 minutes north of Columbus.

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