



Owner Candidate

ELLEN M. CHARLES

Ellen Charles, who has operated a racing stable in Maryland since 2004, has a long history in Maryland racing as her mother bred and raced Thoroughbreds and her father was a steward at Maryland racetracks for many years. Charles, who previously has served on the MTHA Board of Directors, owns Hillwood Stable, which breeds and also purchases Thoroughbreds at auctions. Among her top horses are Cordmaker, Phlash Phelps and Shimmering Aspen, each of which have earned in excess of \$400,000.

Earlier in 2020, Majestic Reason, a mare she owns in partnership with Richard Golden, won the Grade 3 Barbara Fritchie Stakes at Laurel Park. Charles, who was named MTHA Owner of the Year for 2016, has a broodmare band and supports two of her former racehorses who went on to stallion careers.

Bandbox, by leading sire Tapit, stands at Northview Stallion Station in Maryland. Bandbox won the \$250,000 General George Handicap, a Grade 3 event, at Laurel in 2014 and earned \$390,345 in a 15-race career. Bandbox through October was the second-leading stallion in Maryland by earnings for 2020.

Golden Years, by Not For Love, raced only five times but won three races, including the Maryland Million Nursery and Marylander Stakes for Charles. He was bred in West Virginia by O'Sullivan Farm, where he stands.

Charles, who grew up in Howard County, Md., has served on many boards, including that of Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens in Washington, D.C. Charles has long advocated for devoting more resources to racehorse aftercare and is a member of the Beyond The Wire Board of Directors. She was very instrumental in the creation of this program.

Charles said she remains focused on improving the racing product in Maryland and ensuring proper care of racehorses.