



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2003

Connecticut Dressage Association

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CENTERLINE

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Centerline is the official newsletter of the Connecticut Dressage Association and is published about 10 times annually. It is distributed to all members. CDA welcomes story ideas, informative articles and commentary. Please submit all contributions to: John Gordon, 24 Darren Court Waterbury, CT 06708

Email -

Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org
Subject: Centerline

- CDA Website -

http://ctdressageassoc.org

President's Message

Hopefully everyone took the time to rest over the holidays and you are ready to participate in the many activities CDA has planned for 2003. Thanks to a great group of dedicated members we are well on our way to a full calendar of events for 2003. We have scheduled CDA schooling competitions at Hannover Dressage in East Windsor, CT and Stoneledge Farm in Bethlehem, CT to allow members more location choices. In addition we will still offer three competitions at Once Again Farm in Meriden, CT and we also have our recognized competition at Ox Ridge in Darien, CT.

We have been busy planning clinics for 2003 that include a "Learn to Scribe" clinic with Margaret Freeman, a "Show Preparation" clinic with Vicki Hammers O'Neill, a couple of rider clinics, and we will end the show season with an organized trail ride for those brave enough to take their mounts off the beaten path (ok, we don't plan on going that far off the beaten path).

Our first activity of 2003 is of course our awards party to be held February 22nd at Fern's house. Thanks to our new Awards Coordinator, Marcie Gordon, we have some great prizes for our 2002 year end award winners. Those of you who have attended in the past know that this is a great time to meet new friends, catch up with old acquaintances, and the consensus has always been that the food is great. If you have not attended in the past, please make this the year that you do. You can be assured that you will be welcomed and have a great time.

Nancy

USDF ANNOUNCES 2002 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES AND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) announced the recipients of the 2002 Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Awards during the USDF Annual Convention Awards Banquet, held in Portland, Oregon on December 14, 2002.

Inductees to the USDF Hall of Fame are chosen from nominees who have influenced the development, growth, quality and popularity of dressage. Horses that have performed admirably and consistently in the international arena may also be nominated to the Hall of Fame.

The 2002 Hall of Fame inductees are: Colonel Hiram Tuttle, recognized for his contributions to the development of dressage in the United States; Kyra Downton, in recognition of her leadership in the development and promotion of dressage in the western United States; and Ivan Bezugloff Jr., acknowledged for his proven leadership in establishing the first national dressage periodical, giving the American dressage community a platform for open discussion.

The first time recipients of the USDF Lifetime Achievement Award are Lazelle Knocke, the first USDF vice president and also served as president from 1989 to 1993; and Elizabeth Searle, former USDF vice president.

USDF Historical Committee Chair Laura Gorretta stated, "The USDF Lifetime Achievement Award was established by the USDF Historical Committee and the USDF Executive Board honoring the dedication, expertise, and talent of volunteers whose commitment to dressage at the local, regional, and national levels is apparent."

Additional information regarding the USDF Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Awards can be obtained by contacting Sarah Quick at (859) 271-7876 or through e-mail at squick@usdf.org or visiting our website at the following link: <http://www.usdf.org/Programs/awards/2002HallsOfFame.asp>.

2003 Calendar of Events

February 22

CDA's Awards Party
See page 7, this issue

March 21-22

Clinics with Dr. Cesar Parra
Columbia, CT
Visit his website:
<http://www.piaffe-performance.com>
Contact Dee Loveless
860-228-4879

March 22

CDA Show Prep Clinic
Once Again Farm
10am-4pm with Lunch
page 5 of this issue

March 30

CDA Schooling Show
Hanover Dressage
Donna Leonessa
860-742-8110

May 4

CDA Schooling Show
Once Again Farm
Nancy Blanchard
860-283-8748

May 11

Dressage in the Litchfield Hills
Litchfield Hills Equestrian Centre
Penny Hawes
860-567-1441

May 24-25

CDA Clinic with
Roel Theunissen
At Hannover Dressage
Donna Leonessa
860-742-8110

June 8

Hannover Dressage Series
East Windsor
Kelly Cordes
860-386-0747

ADVERTISEMENTS

STALL AVAILABLE (April)

Private dressage barn; large stall; all day turnout; lighted, sand dressage ring; 2 lessons/mo. included with FEI Competitor/"R" Dressage Judge. \$400/mo. Board reduction possible for barn work. Columbia, CT. Call Dee 860-228-4879 or dloveless@fando.com

Jaguar Dressage Saddle - 17.5"; med tree; black; very good condition. \$1250 (\$1800 new). Call Dee 860-228-4879 or dloveless@fando.com

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU....."

Featuring CDA member and 2002 Award Winner Kari Bradshaw

By: Marcie Gordon

Kari Bradshaw has been a CDA member for eight years, a member of the CDA Board and the winner of two 2002 CDA Year-End awards. Kari and her husband Rick make their home in Norfolk, CT. Kari works as an administrative assistant for a financial advisor in Farmington, CT. In her spare time Kari enjoys hunting, fishing and the creativity of arts and crafts. Rick Bradshaw's Horseshoeing business services equine clients throughout western Connecticut and their black lab "Timber" accompanies Rick each day! Kari and Rick's two cats "Indy" and "Lily" stay behind to protect the homestead!

Kari's two horses Briar Bay (16.2h Appendix QH, 10 yr. old) and Kamazon ("Cassie" 15.2h TB, 22 yr. old) are kept at home in Norfolk. Kari explains "They share a pasture off the side of the barn where there are also two run-in stalls. I think letting my horses be outside as they please really changes their attitude. They are much happier and have no bad habits (i.e. cribbing, stall kicking or weaving) since they are not stalled every night." Kari's neighbors kindly offer her the use of their flat pasture arena to ride Briar and Cassie.

In addition to balancing family, profession, hobbies and horses, Kari finds the time to be the Volunteer Coordinator for "Centerline Events" which manages two large recognized dressage shows in June and August here in Connecticut. Kari recruits volunteers for these two shows and she enjoys interacting with these many dedicated individuals who volunteer their time.

Let's step back in time to when Kari Bradshaw was eight years old. Kari remembers "My mom was the one who got me hooked on horses". Kari's mom (Joan Swiderski) had a horse at that time and Kari took lessons and rode frequently. Kari recalls, "I was always a schooling-show-hunter-type rider until I started eventing "Cassie" over ten years ago at small local events at Frazier Farm, Crickerbrook and Hill Top Stables". Being happy for her past experiences Kari says, "We have done it all - eventing, hunters, jumpers, western shows at local fairs and trail riding".

This past season, Kari's young horse Briar was injured so she entered "Cassie" in dressage competitions. Their hard work paid off since Kari and "Cassie" were awarded CDA 2002 Schooling Show Championship for Training Level-Open and a fifth place award for Recognized Show competition in Training Level-Open.

Kari enjoys competing, diversity and having fun in the process. For example, Kari has enjoyed showing at the Harwinton Fair for several years. She gets to meet up with many of the same riders who compete there every year - most are hunter/jumper competitors. This year Kari took "Cassie" to the Harwinton Fair and since "Cassie" no longer jumps Kari entered her in the Pleasure and Horsemanship (equitation) classes. Kari remembers the day: "Here is a ring full of hunter riders with their flat saddles and short stirrups and me in my dressage saddle with long stirrups. In the pleasure class, the horse's head needs to stretch down just like when you do your stretch circle in a dressage test. Cassie has this move 'down pat'! She won all three pleasure classes! Dressage is wonderful!"

Kari has goals to this year of 2003: "Cassie is still doing Training Level, I don't think she will ever go higher in her older years, but she is still so faithful to the sport and me. Briar Bay is doing First Level and hopefully we will move up a little more this year". In addition, Kari's riding diversity prompts her to say "Don't feel that you need to stay in the dressage ring all the time, go out and have some fun at a local fair and take your dressage saddle with you, the judge won't care!"

Kari feels that CDA will be sponsoring many shows and activities this year and she hopes to that more members will participate in CDA's programs. (Ed. Note: Let's all spread the good word about CDA!)

This writer thanks Kari Bradshaw for a very heartfelt interview. Clearly this is a CDA member who really enjoys her horses and hopefully we all learned more about Kari Bradshaw through "Getting to Know You...".

Opening Date: February 20, 2003

Closing Date: March 22, 2003

Sunday, March 30, 2003
Connecticut Dressage Association
Schooling Show

Location - Hannover Dressage
Scantic Road
East Windsor, CT

Judge: Dee Loveless (r)
Secretary: Donna Leonessa and Kelly Cordes
860-742-8110
3080 South Street, Coventry, CT 06238

Class List: USDF 1996 Introductory Tests A and B.
USAE 2003 Training 1-4.
USAE 2003 First 1-4.
USAE 2003 Second and above-State test to be ridden.
Dressage Equitation.

Fees: CDA members \$20 per test.
Non-members \$30 per test.
Number deposit: \$1
Checks payable to CDA.
No refunds after closing date.

Awards: Up to six ribbons awarded in each class.

Rules: Number of rides per horse/rider combination may be limited to two. State two preferred tests first on application. Current negative Coggins within 12 months is mandatory and must accompany entry. All competitors must wear hard hats. Classes may be combined, split, or canceled at the discretion of management. Family pets not allowed on the premises. CDA thanks Hannover Dressage for the use of its facility. Please treat the grounds as you would your own property. Place all trash in designated containers; no alcohol, please.

Times: Call the show secretary the Friday evening before the show between 6 - 9 P.M. or email: dleonessa@hotmail.com to have the schedule emailed to you.

Facility: The facility has two indoor arenas: one is available for warm-up and the other will be the show arena. Weather permitting, there is an outdoor arena available for warm-up. The show arena will be set up as a full size dressage arena for all classes.

THE SHOW ARENA

March 30th CDA Schooling Show

This is the perfect show to perform the new dressage tests for both the experienced and inexperienced show person. A “R” USAE judge will be judging the event and will discuss test riding strategies at lunch time if time permits. CDA volunteers will be available to assist riders if needed. Video and photography services will be offered for a fee. A hot lunch will be available for a nominal fee.

Judge:

Dee Loveless (R) - Dee was spotlighted as a CDA Year End Award winner in last month’s newsletter – “Getting to Know You” series. Here are some questions posed to Dee regarding her judging and showing experiences.

Why is showing important?

I believe showing is important for several reasons - 1) It gives the rider a chance to get an independent assessment of the dressage work he/she is doing; 2) it gives the rider an opportunity to find out how he/she is doing compared to peers; 3) it gives the rider an opportunity to see if the dressage work they are doing “sticks” when the horse is in an unfamiliar somewhat stressful environment; 4) it provides the rider with an opportunity to set specific, quantifiable goals (something I am very big on) - for instance - goal - to ride Training Level Test 2 and score a minimum of 63% - not how you place in the class - but aim for a specific result for horse/rider that is attainable but not easy to achieve. Setting and achieving goals builds confidence.

What area of dressage tests do you think riders should pay closer attention to? Proper figures? Transitions?

I believe many riders unnecessarily lose points in test riding because of inexperience - specifically lack of understanding of test riding strategy. In the arena is not the time to school or train your horse - it is the time to present the best possible test to the judge. Of course transitions are important - they are the cornerstone of a successful dressage test - practice transitions between and within the gaits constantly - then they will be better in the test as well. But mostly remember to prepare for the transition in the test – common problem I see in judging is “surprising” the horse with the transition - result - abrupt or resistant (you lose 1-2 points instantly).

Accuracy (proper figures) - this is a problem primarily at lower levels (TR & 1st) due to inexperience of the rider, or experienced rider on a young horse. Riders should practice all figures at home so they can do them with their eyes closed (use cones) - again silly to lose points because your lovely trot is done on an 18 instead of 20 m. circle (you lose 1-2 points).

Lastly - test riding strategy - know where you might gain or lose points based on you and your horse’s weaknesses and strengths. At home work to improve the weaknesses - in the ring - try to minimize what the judge sees of the weakness - and show off the good stuff.

What show tips might you share with the membership?

First look the part - dress neatly (nothing sticking out - hair, tie, etc); groom the horse; clean tack; braid the horse (if possible - not necessary in schooling show - but it looks so much better).

Do not wander around the ring aimlessly at the walk during the short period before the bell is rung. Get going - this is your opportunity to get the horse in front of your leg, on the bit and listening to you before your test starts.

Do you have any comments about the new dressage tests and the changes that have been incorporated? Will they make the test simpler or harder?

In my opinion Training and First Level are not significantly changed (Training is actually made easier by the fact that the rider may rise or sit during all four tests, at will). However, Second Level through Fourth have been made more difficult. There is more emphasis on collection and straightness (a lot more done on the centerline with no rail to help keep the horse straight).

Facility

Hannover Dressage is located at 309 Scantic Road in East Windsor is hosting the show. This is the new home of trainer, Kelly Cordes. There are two indoor arenas which allow for separate warmup in one and test riding in the other. The show arena will be set up as a full size arena. There is a sand arena for outdoor warmup if weather permits. Stalls are available if necessary for a small fee.

CONNCTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

Brings you

SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL SHOW PREPARATION

Presented by
VICKI HAMMERS-O'NEIL and ONCE AGAIN FARM

This unmounted clinic will teach you how to turn yourself and your horse into a well-groomed, well-prepared show duo. Vicki will reveal her secrets of * Fashion Do's and Don'ts for both horse and rider, *Fitness, * Mental Preparation (taught by Leslie Weiss, Ph.D.),* Grooming tools and products, * What to do when you get to the showgrounds, and more. Get organized now! Plan to attend this day-long seminar so that when you mount up, you are truly ready to go.

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2003

Time: 10 AM to 4 PM Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non-Members, \$20 Youth

Place: Once Again Farm Bring: chair, notebook, warm clothes

Directions: From I-91 North: Take exit 17 to 691 West. Take Exit 4 off 691W. Turn left at end of ramp. **Turn right onto third residential street, Gwen Rd. At the end of Gwen Rd., turn right onto Johnson Ave. Take the first left onto Finch Ave. Go 7/10 miles on Finch to Allen Ave. Turn left. Once Again Farm is 100 feet ahead on the right. From I-91 South: take exit 18 onto 691 West. Follow directions from I-91 North. From I-84 East and West: Take exit 27 onto 691. Take Exit 4; at end of ramp turn right. Then follow directions from I-91 beginning with **.

About Vicki Hammers-O'Neil: Vicki Hammers-O'Neil has been training both horses and riders in dressage of all levels for 23 years, and managing Peter Flagg's Once Again Farm for 14. She is a USDF Certified Instructor for levels T-4, and is a faculty member for the USDF Instructor's Certification program. Vicki has earned both bronze and silver medals, plus numerous year-end awards. Vicki lives in Meriden with her husband, Dennis, and children, Michael (12) and Erin (8).

REGISTRATION (Registration closes 3/12/03)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Check enclosed, payable to CDA: __Member __non-Member __Youth (under 21)

Mail to: LESLIE WEISS, 59 HOBART ST. NEW HAVEN, CT 06511

Questions? Call Leslie Weiss at 203-777-1950 or lesweiss@tiac.net

Dressage Today

Presents

A Weekend Educational Program for Dressage Youth

February 14, 15, & 16, 2003

Bedford, New York

Gleneden Dressage is joining Dressage4Kids, Inc and USDF Region 8 to provide a weekend of educational programs. The lectures and demonstrations are for young dressage riders competing now or hoping to compete in FEI shows as Young Riders, Juniors, or Pony Riders. We have invited a panel of experts to cover a variety of subjects that every serious competitor and horse owner should know. All meals from Friday Supper through Sunday Lunch will be provided. Where possible, we will arrange housing for those who wish, in our guest rooms and on our couches and floors!

Due to the generous sponsorship of *Dressage Today Magazine*, there will be no fee for the weekend for participants, although there may be a small fee to help cover meals. There will be a fee for adult auditors. Local Motels: Ramada Inn – Armonk - Exit 3 of I 684 – 914 273-9090

Heidi's Motel (less expensive) – Brewster Rt. 22 just north of I 84 and 684 junction – 845 279-8011

For more information contact Lendon Gray 914 234-4158 (eves) or email - graydresge@aol.com

SCHEDULE

Friday Evening

- 6:00 **Supper with Beth Baumert and Brandi Hilbert** chatting about European shows, training stables, and buying horses
- 7:30 **Suggestions on Developing a Kur** (with videos) – Margaret Freeman – S judge

Saturday

- 7:30 **BREAKFAST**
- 8:00 **Anatomy of the Foot and Lower leg** – Colin Gaskell – farrier and lecturer
- 10:00 **How to be a better student** - Lendon Gray
- 10:30 **Be prepared for FEI Competition** - Debra Reinhardt - TD and FEI Manager
- 11:30 **LUNCH and go to Gleneden Dressage stable**
- 12:30 **Lunging techniques** – Vicki O'Neil - USDF Certified 4th Level and Faculty
- 1:00 **How to Jog Correctly for the Vet Check** – tba
- 1:15 **Practice lunging and jogging** with Vicki and tba
- 2:30 **Thoughts on Teaching** – Lendon Gray
- 3:00 **What everyone should know about Colic, EPM, West Nile Virus, and Lyme Disease** – Matt Elliott DVM
- 5:30 **DINNER** with Albert Zesiger, sponsor, competitive event and Dressage rider, marathoner, swimmer, skier, and CEO of Zesiger Capital Group, LLC

Sunday

- 7:30 **BREAKFAST**
- 8:00 **Prepare now for Showing** – Lendon Gray
- 9:00 **How to be Mentally Prepared to Do your Best** – Leslie Weiss PhD (private sessions afterward if anyone wants)
- 11:00 **Massage and Stretching Techniques** – Marisela Gould (demo to be held at the stable)
- 12:00 **LUNCH**
- 12:45 **From the Judge's Point of View** with particular attention to the new movements in the 2003 tests – Margaret Freeman - S Judge
- 2:15 **How to Find and Keep Sponsors and Owners** – tba
- 3:30 **Finish**

If there are enough applicants the program will be moved to the local school.

Directions to the home of Lendon Gray: Interstate 684 to Exit 4, turn toward Bedford on Rt. 172. Go 1 ½ mi. (past Gleneden Dressage and Sunnyfield Farm) to the blinking red light (Shell Station on right). Turn left on Rt. 172/22. C. ½ mile, turn right onto Lake Avenue. Lendon's is last house on right (dead end street).

APPLICATION

YOUTH—PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENTIRE APPLICATION.
ADULT AUDITORS—PLEASE COMPLETE THE STARRED ITEMS.

*Name _____ Age _____ *Phone _____
*Address _____ *Email _____

Highest Level Completed _____

Name of Trainer _____

Goals for 2003 competing _____

Would you like us to try to find housing for you? It may be on someone's couch or air mattress. Bring your own sleeping bag and towels. _____

*Will you be at supper Friday evening? _____

*Would you like a private session with Leslie Weiss, the sports psychologist at \$75? _____

Mail to: Lendon Gray or email to: graydresge@aol.com or fax to 914 234-4158
25 Lake Avenue
Bedford, NY 10506

YEAR END AWARDS PRESENTATION



February 22, 2003 at 7pm
Where - Fern Feldman's Home



Dinner and some fun...dancing????

Bring spouses, significant others, friends, potential CDA members, but come!!!

This is a party for you, the CDA members.

RSVP to Fern by Feb 17th. 203-272-0711

BYOB -soda and mixers will be provided.
Bring your favorite dessert to share



Directions: From I-84, take exit 26 Cheshire. Turn right (or bear right if you are coming from the Waterbury) at the light at the end of the ramp. Stay on route 68/70 until Mountain Rd. Land Mark is that Mountain Rd is the NEXT light after the Notch Store on the right and at the light where Rt 68 splits from Rt 70. Turn Right onto Mountain Rd. At four-way stop go straight, Fern's home is about .6 mile on the left from the four-way stop, 890 Mountain Rd, white ranch with circular drive.

