



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2003

Connecticut Dressage Association

President

Nancy Blanchard
860-283-8748
President@ctdressageassoc.org

Vice President

Leslie Weiss
203-865-6156 ext. 1
VP@ctdressageassoc.org

Membership Secretary

Donna Leonessa
860-742-8110
Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

Recording Secretary

Fern Feldman
203-272-0711
Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org

Treasurer

Stephanie Rossi
860-621-7194
Treasurer@ctdressageassoc.org

Omnibus

John Gordon
Nancy Blanchard
Omnibus@ctdressageassoc.org

Centerline/Publicity

John Gordon
203-573-0919
Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org

Awards/Scholarships

Marcie Gordon
203-573-0919
Awards@ctdressageassoc.org

Youth Program Coordinator

Pam Bilodeau
860-585-8693
YPC@ctdressageassoc.org

Youth Representative

Desiree Bilodeau
860-585-8693
JrYR@ctdressageassoc.org

Board

Kari Bradshaw
860-542-5375
Kim Chimblo
860-585-8278
Debra Reinhardt
203-264-2148

CENTERLINE

Send address changes to
Donna Leonessa
3080 South Street
Coventry, Ct 06238
e-mail:
Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

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

As I write this I am anticipating my upcoming trip to Florida. We are having a storm that has already dropped around 6 inches of snow on the ground here in Thomaston and this makes my trip to warm weather even more appealing. I don't know about the rest of you, but the extreme cold temperature we have been having this winter has really left me without any motivation to ride and I am sure to be working extra hard come spring to get in shape.

My personal plans to get back on track are to first of all do a lot of walking while in sunny Florida. As we are bringing my grandson to Disney World, I don't think I will have any real choice in the matter so better to look at it as a fitness plan than a forced march around the parks. On my return, I plan on exercising a few brain cells by attending the scribing clinic with Margaret Freeman. This will be an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the requirements of the new 2003 tests. My next endeavor will be to attend the "Secrets of Successful Show Prep" clinic at Once Again Farm where, between the expert advice on getting our horse's ready to show from Vickie Hammers-O'Neil and the mental preparation advice from Leslie Weiss, I figure I will be totally motivated to be back in the saddle on a regular basis. (Ed. note: See information about both clinics in this issue)

And now onto a new topic,

It was noticed that the 2002 schooling show year-end awards did not have as many entries as we would have liked. We are looking forward to this improving with our scheduling of additional competitions at new locations for 2003. Thanks to the efforts of Marcie Gordon, we are looking to have some new year-end award prizes that are sure to please, and we are also planning to showcase some of our winners in upcoming Centerline editions. My suggestion to all our members is to make this the year to ride for a year-end award. If you have not attended our competitions before, let me assure you that you will find our competitions are run very efficiently and the staff is always as accommodating as possible to make your experience a pleasant one. Add to this the fact that we have a great year-end awards party with great prizes and great people and it is a win a win situation anyway you look at it.

Well, I am off to do my last minute packing, just 24 hours away from sunny weather. Keep warm while I am gone and I hope to see many of you at this year's awards party.

Nancy



Don't look like this when you realize that you have forgotten your CDA Membership renewal and won't be receiving your April Centerline!!
Fill out your Application today!!
Look on the back of the CDA Membership form included in this issue. If your name is not listed as a CDA member for 2003 your need to renew now!! If you have mailed your renewal after 2/15/2003 we thank you.

2003 Calendar of Events

March 9

CDA "Learn to Scribe Clinic"
with Margaret Freeman
4 Pm-7 Pm
Cheshire, CT
Nancy Blanchard
(860)283-8748

March 22

CDA Show Prep Clinic
Once Again Farm
10am-4pm with Lunch
Leslie Weiss
203-777-1950

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 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

June 13-14

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

June 22

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

July 13

CDA Schooling Show
Once Again Farm
Kari Bradshaw
860-677-2600

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU....."

Featuring CDA member Lendon Gray

By: Marcie Gordon

CDA member Lendon Gray makes her home in Bedford, NY. It is here where Lendon owns and operates her successful training facility "Glendon Dressage" and where she is instructor to junior and adult amateur riders alike. Fellow equestrians respect Lendon as a world-class rider and well-known trainer who enjoys teaching all levels of riders.

At this time, Lendon's organizational energies continue to be devoted to her desire to further the education and development of horses and riders in dressage. Lendon was once quoted as saying "My belief has always been dressage for the sake of making any horse better."

During the autumn of 2002, Lendon proposed to CDA the idea of offering the "Lendon Gray CDA Schooling Show High Score Equitation Trophy" as part of CDA's Year-End Awards Program for 2003. Lendon said, "Since CDA offers a series of schooling shows which are nearby, I hoped they would include regular equitation classes. This will help teach riders how to ride in a group class, give judges experience in judging a group class, and hopefully get riders to think about position and use of aids".

When asked "how, when and why" did you come up with the idea for the Equitation Award, Lendon replied:

"For a LONG time I had felt that the emphasis was to buy the right horse and ride at the highest level possible rather than putting the emphasis and energy into learning to sit correctly and to use aids correctly. For the past 20 years I have been working to get riders to take position and seat more seriously and I tried to get the USET, USDF and UDAE to offer some sort of equitation program. Finally last year we had the first USAE Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals".

When asked why CDA members (youth and AA) should consider competing for this award, Lendon responded:

"Prove that all your work on your position has been productive. ***An equitation class puts all emphasis on the rider.*** It should not matter if your horse is a good mover, is an Arab, Przewalski, or Clydesdale. It should not matter if your horse cost \$300,000 or \$.30. If you bought a \$300,000 horse and are winning everything and everyone is nasty and jealous saying you just bought your way to the top.....go out and win the equitation class and prove that you not only have a nice checkbook, but can also ride correctly☺. Try to do something different and learn to ride in a group class."

CDA is honored to accept Lendon Gray's challenge and we will be presenting the "Lendon Gray CDA Schooling Show Equitation Trophy" as part of our 2003 Year-End Awards Program for High Score Dressage Seat Equitation. One high score Youth rider and one high score Adult Amateur rider will be awarded a special trophy at the end of the season.

CDA will sponsor five schooling shows this season and the Dressage Seat Equitation class will be offered in each show. To be considered for this special year-end award, riders must be current CDA members prior to riding their first class and riders must ride the Dressage Seat Equitation Class test in a minimum of 3 CDA Schooling shows. Lendon Gray states that this program hopes to promote and reward correct seat, position and use of aids in dressage by Youth riders and Adult Amateur riders in CDA schooling show competitions

CDA thanks Lendon Gray for giving us this opportunity to promote Dressage Seat Equitation in our schooling shows for 2003. Lendon Gray's untiring efforts to promote and improve our sport continue to grow and we are grateful for her visions.



You are cordially invited:

What: A Learn to Scribe Clinic (Sponsored by CDA)

When: Sunday March 9, 2003 - From 4 to 7 p.m.

Where: 890 Mountain Rd – Cheshire (full directions below)

Why: Because it will be fun.

Because it is free.

Because refreshments will be served.

Because it will expand your ability to choose a more challenging position when you volunteer at competitions.

Because it will give you a chance to become familiar with the new 2003 test requirements.

Because the presenter will be Margaret Freeman (S) judge who will share some great tips on making your scribing experience a pleasant one for yourself as well as the judges you scribe for.

So what are you waiting for???

Call now and reserve your spot with Nancy @ 860-283-8748.

From I-84 (either direction), take exit 26, Cheshire. At end of ramp, turn right onto 68/70. Stay on 70, Route 68 will go to the right). Make a right turn at the next light (after the gas station) onto Mountain Rd. Follow Mountain Road, straight. At the stop sign, continue for 6/10's mile more. 890 Mountain Road, white ranch, circular drive. Phone: 203-272-0711. Fern

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

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 1-2.
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.

Attention: Youth

Dressage as a Sport Recognized by Schools

By: Debra Reinhardt

As the out-going USDF Marketing Chair, I am very excited and pleased to inform you that the USDF Board of Governors passed a new program for Jr/YR. A very small sub-committee of the Marketing Committee developed a program for Jr/YR members to receive school recognition for their participation in the sport of Dressage.

The purpose of this program is to award students who maintain a high level of grade excellence with a high level of competition recognition. Schools have many sports, fine arts, and other extra curriculum activities. Many studies, including those done by the National Federation of State High Schools Association, have shown that these activities produce well-developed students. Yet, until now, there has not been a program to recognize those students who are exhibiting the same degree of commitment, athleticism, and dedication to a sport outside of the school curriculum.

No one will disagree that these extra-curricular activities are important to the development of these students and that they deserve similar recognition as their peers receive for similar activities. This program through the USDF is to get recognition for a student who is dedicated to the sport of Dressage, who receives instruction, and who competes. The benefits are plainly seen for the young rider, i.e. get recognition by their school, by their peers, and by colleges they are applying for entrance to as a 'lettered' athlete for a sport they love. However, there is also a huge benefit for the USDF by being a leader, getting more Jr/YR as members to the USDF and building our grass roots. Please be aware the several negotiations are going on with the NCAA to put in place an equestrian division. So lettering at the middle school and high school levels may become very important to these students in the very near future.

Lettering the Sport of Dressage

Many sports in our educational ladder give a 'Letter' as recognition of a certain athlete's accomplishments in a sport. Equestrian sports are very costly and 99% of educational institutes cannot even consider such a cost for one sport. Yet, the students who are dedicated to their education and participation in this sport still deserve the credit and recognition their peers receive for similar commitments to other sports. In dressage, there are many ways to accomplish certain goals and therefore, certain criteria can be set as guidelines towards receiving a 'letter'.

Requirements:

These following requirements are USDF's requirements. Each Educational Institute may also have additional and specific requirements for students to receive such an award. For example, some schools do not allow a Varsity Letter in a sport until the student is in a specific grade. These rules still need to be observed and are not overridden by USDF.

1. Student(s) requesting such a letter must have their school registered with the USDF as participants of the Educational Institute 'Lettering' program before scores are earned. The student or school may request a packet is available by contacting the USDF directly.
2. Student must be a USDF participating member.
3. All scores must be the same rider but the horse can be different.
4. All scores must be done within one school calendar year. One school calendar year starts the day after last day of school of the previous year through the last day of the next school year, ex: June 25, 2002 thru June 15, 2003.
5. All scores must be received at a USAE/USDF recognized shows.
6. Rider will fill out a 'Lettering' Achievement Form and send it to the USDF for verification. The USDF will forward the form and verification to the school and contact listed on the Educational Institute's Registration form within 30 days of receiving the form.
7. The student may 'Letter' each school year. They can 'Letter' at the same level, but they must earn new scores each time.

JV (Junior Varsity) Letter

1. Four scores of 60% or better at Training Level or higher from three different judges at two different competitions. At least one score must be at Training Level Test 4 or higher.

Varsity Letter

1. Four scores of 60% or better at First Level and above from three different judges at two different competitions. At least one score must be at First Level Test 4 or higher.

Requirement for the Educational Institute

1. Each year that a student(s) wish to participate in the 'Lettering' program, the school must fill out the Educational Institute Registration Form. This form can be mailed to the school by contacting the USDF.
2. Provide a School Letter/Award of sport achievement.

Cost to the Educational Institute

1. Time to fill out registration form
2. Cost of the letter/award.

May 24th and 25th, 2003
CDA presents a riding clinic and lecture on dressage
with
ROEL THEUNISSEN Of Wadsworth Farm
At
Hannover Dressage
In East Windsor,
Connecticut

Roel graduated from Deurne, the prestigious Dutch National Equestrian Institut. After graduation, he moved to Germany to study with internationally recognized trainer Georg Theodorescu, also the father of German Olympic Rider, Monica Theodorescu.

After 18 months training with Mr.Theodorescu, Roel returned to The Netherlands and spent the next 10 years working with Henk van Bergen, who remains his mentor to this day. Henk was the coach of the Dutch Olympic team who captured the Bronze Medal in 1988. In 1993, he was "Trainer of the Year", an honor bestowed upon him by the International Dressage Trainers Club, whose members include the finest dressage trainers in the world. Other recipients of this prestigious award include Sjef Janssen, coach of Anky van Grunsven, and the late Herbert Rhebein of Germany.

While working as an Assistant Trainer at Henk's, Roel also had his own Dressage Training stable at Berkenhoeve, a well-known Trakehener breeding farm. He has competed at the FEI level, and trained horses and riders through Grand Prix. A recommendation from Henk and Wilma van Bergen brought Roel to the Boston area. As Head Trainer and General Manager of Wadsworth Farm, Roel operates a very successful training business. He remains open to working with all horses, and all the horses he works with are truly transformed through his training. Roel is also a down-to-earth, articulate instructor, open to working with all motivated clients that have a serious interest in improving. As a seasoned professional, Roel demonstrates an incredible talent, determination, and commitment that bring out the best in a horse or rider. If they can work hard and possess enough natural ability, Roel will inspire them to new levels.

The Clinic will offer Ten 45 Minute sessions along with a lecture during the lunch hour. Auditors are welcome and rates will include lunch for those that signup in advance.

Interested clinic riders should contact: Donna Leonessa, Adult Education Coordinator, dleonessa@hotmail.com or 860-742-8110 for more information. Slots will fill up quickly and will cost \$90.00 for a private 45 minute session.

**May 24th and 25th , 2003
CDA Clinic with
ROEL THEUNISSEN Of Wadsworth Farm
At
Hannover Dressage
In East Windsor, Connecticut**

AUDITOR SIGN UP

Name(s)_____

Street_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

******Auditors who sign up prior to May 23th will be provided with breakfast and lunch during the clinic.
Auditors who do not sign up by May 23th will pay an additional \$5.00 on the day of the clinic for breakfast
and lunch.******

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2003

_____CDA Member: \$25.00
_____Non-Member: \$35.00
_____JuniorYR (21 under): \$20.00

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2003

_____CDA Member: \$25.00
_____Non-Member: \$35.00
_____JuniorYR (21 under): \$20.00

BOTH DAYS:

_____CDA Member: \$35.00
_____Non-Member: \$55.00
_____JuniorYR (21 under): \$30.00

GRAND TOTAL (Please make checks payable to CDA) \$_____

Please send Auditor Sign Up with check payable to CDA to:
Donna Leonessa, Adult Education Coordinator
3080 South Street
Coventry, CT 06238
Dleonessa@hotmail.com (860) 742-8110

All articles are to be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be mailed to me at:

John Gordon
Attn. CENTERLINE
24 Darren Court
Waterbury, CT 06708-3903

or
 They can be Emailed to me at ct_dress_assn@geocities.com

In the Subject line: Centerline

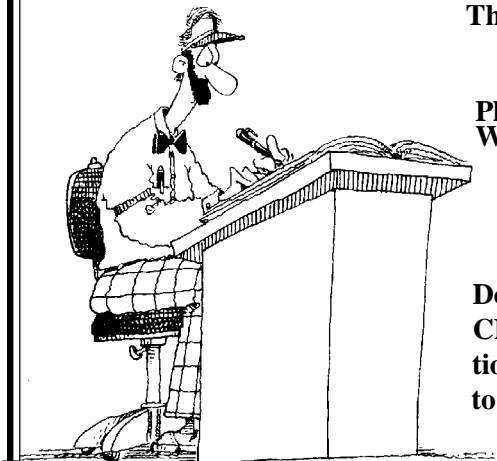
Please send them as an Attachment in either Word for Windows, WordPerfect, RTF or in a plain text file Format if possible.

Attention Show and Clinic Organizers, Trainers, Stables and Organizations:

Don't forget to send us information about your activities for the 2003 CDA Calendar of Events!!! Send a one-line description, dates, locations, and contact person's name and phone number. We'll be delighted to include it in Centerline's regular calendar at no cost.

Thanks,
 John

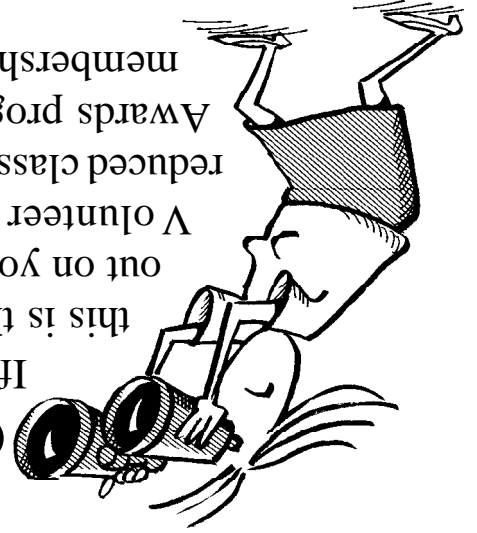
Remember to visit us on the web at <http://www.ctdressageassoc.org>



<i>Page Size</i>	2003 Advertising Rates			
	CDA Members		Non-CDA Member	
	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Year</i>
<i>Business Card</i>	\$10	\$100	\$20	\$200
<i>¼ Page</i>	\$15	\$150	\$30	\$300
<i>½ Page</i>	\$20	\$200	\$35	\$350
<i>Full Page</i>	\$25	\$250	\$40	\$400

Prices based on receiving camera ready artwork. Layout and design work not included. Contact the editor if you need assistance in the layout of your ad. Entry forms for shows will not be included in the newsletter. Classified ads for non-members are \$2.00 for 30 characters. Count as a character every letter, space, and punctuation mark.

We have been looking for your 2003 CDA membership renewal form



If you have not renewed your membership in CDA for 2003, this is the *last Centerline* that you will receive. You will also miss out on your other benefits! Such as: Annual CDA Omnibus, Show Volunteer Credits, Bulletins on special rider, trainer and instructor reduced class fee for CDA schooling competitions and CDA Annual Awards program for recognized and schooling shows. Plus, individual membership in USDFA and eligibility for USDF Rider Awards.

Look on the back of the membership form in this Centerline for your name as a Member for 2003. If you do not see it. You need to renew now! If you have mailed your renewal form after 2/15/2003, we thank you!

CENTERLINE

Send Address changes to:

Donna Leonessa

3080 South Street

Coventry, CT. 06238

860-742-8110

e-mail: Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

CDA BOARD MEETING Wednesday , 2003 at 6:00 PM

Call Fern Feldman at 203-272-0711 or Email - Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org for directions and times.