



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

April 2004

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

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

Awards

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

Youth Program Coordinators

Pam Bilodeau
860-585-8693
Vicki Hammers-O'Neil
203-238-3553
YPC@ctdressageassoc.org

Youth Representative

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

Board

Kari Bradshaw
860-542-5375
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 -

www.ctdressageassoc.org

CDA is a USDF member, and the GMO's members are automatically USDF Group Members.

President's Message

Unfortunately, computer problems prevented me from submitting my President's message in time to meet the deadline for the March issue of Centerline but I was pleased to find the great article written by Georgian Lussier taking up the front page of the March edition. I attended the second day of the Dressage 4 Kids & Teikyo Post Equine Program Educational Weekend Georgian wrote about, and found it so interesting I was truly disappointed I had not been able to find the time to attend the first day as well.

Although Marcie Gordon wrote a great year-end party "overview in a nutshell" article which was included in our March issue, I would like to add, in addition to her wide ranging notes of appreciation, a special thank you to Margaret Freeman for her donation of time and knowledge as our featured speaker for this event. I would also like to thank Lendon Gray for donating and presenting the High Point award for the Dressage Seat Equitation Division, Marcie Gordon who was the driving force behind most of the organizing of this event, Fern Feldman who year-after-year opens her lovely home to us for this event, and to Pam Bilodeau for providing a fantastic menu. As Marcie mentioned, many others made this night a success and we thank all who assisted at or attended this event, as without each and every one of you, this would not have been the success it was. On a sad note, John Gordon was ill and could not attend which was unfortunate for us as it was planned to present him with a token of our appreciation in acknowledgement of his outstanding dedication and contributions to Centerline, Omnibus, and the CDA Website.

I am pleased to announce that Vickie Hammers-O'Neil, Debra Reinhardt, and Leslie Weiss will be heading our Scholarship Committee. They will be focused on updating our guidelines and improving the visibility of this program. They are well on their way to making some great improvements and details will be forthcoming.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming events. April 10th is the date of our CDA sponsored, "Eyes Wide Open" clinic with Ann Guptill. May 2nd, May 8th, and May 23rd are all CDA sponsored schooling competition dates. See our 2004 Calendar of Events in this issue for additional information.

Until next month,

Nancy

Thank You Equestrian Centre...

Can we ever thank you enough?

It is my hope that over the past ten years that all CDA members have seen the on going support that Equestrian Centre of Avon, CT has given. They have donated the saddle pads each year for our first place winners at the recognized show. Think about the magnitude and generosity.

As your show manager for the recognized show, it is wonderful to call Equestrian Centre and they say how many without a hesitation. Last year our competition grew and I needed more. So I asked to purchase the extras needed, but they said no to my purchasing them by insisting to give us the extra pads. This type of devotion and care for our club is wonderful.

When you stop by to shop, please remind them how grateful you are to have them as sponsors because these two simple words, Thank You, is never said enough and goes a long way!

Debra Reinhardt

2004 Calendar of Events

April 10, 2004

CDA Clinic with Ann Guptill
"Eyes Wide Open"
Fox Ledge Farm
Contact Donna Leonessa
860-742-8110
dleonessa@hotmail.com

April 14, 2004

CDA Board Meeting - 6:15PM
Cheshire, CT
Call Fern Feldman for directions
203-272-0711

May 2, 2004

CDA Schooling Show
Once Again Farm
Contact: Kari Bradshaw
860-542-5375
rkhotshoe@aol.com

May 2, 2004

CDCTA Schooling Show & Combined
Test
Hearthstone Farm
Contact: Deb Moynihan
860-646-8841
djmoynihan@snet.net

May 8, 2004

CDA Schooling Show
Coventry Equestrian Center
Contact: Suzanne Markham
860-742-1900
avatar0583@aol.com

May 9, 2004

Litchfield Equestrian Centre
Schooling Show
Contact: Penny Hawes
860-567-1441
penny@litchfeldequestrian.com

May 22nd & 23rd, 2004

CDA Clinic with Roel Theunissen
Grand View Stables
Contact Donna Leonessa
860-742-8110
dleonessa@hotmail.com

May 23, 2004

CDA Schooling Show
StoneLedge Farm
Contact: Pam Bilodeau
860-585-6782

May 23, 2004

Xenophon Farm
Dressage and Combined Tests
Contact: Elaine Kachavos
413-548-9918
www.xenophonfarm@aol.com

June 5 and 6, 2004

CDA Spring Competition
Ox Ridge Hunt Club
Contact: Steve Reinhardt
203-264-2148
203-264-0086 (fax)
steve@centerlineevents.com

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU..."

Featuring CDA member Amanda Wells

Written by: Marcie Gordon

CDA Youth member Amanda Wells recently reflected about her dressage training: "Dressage is a never ending learning experience, once we conquered one thing there was another step." She and her horse Aziano were rewarded for their efforts with 2003 Champion and Reserve Champion awards at the CDA Annual Party in January 2004.

Amanda, her parents Harry and Jody and her sister Christina live in Washington, CT. Also living "at home" with the Wells family are Keebler a one-year-old Jack Russell Terrier, Pepper a 9-year-old Black Lab, and Sheza Heavenly John a 14-year-old Quarter Horse. Aziano (a.k.a. Jesse) is Amanda's 11-year-old Thoroughbred and he is stabled at her aunt's home, which is about 2 minutes away from her house.

Currently a senior at Shepaug Valley High School, Amanda shares with us her academic and extra-curricular achievements along with her future educational goals: "I have played girls soccer for two years and then I decided that riding was much more important to me. I was also a member of peer leadership for three years, but this year the club was cancelled. I was inducted into National Honor Society in my junior year of high school. I am a very active member in my class and I am always helping with the class fundraising projects. We raise money as a class to go on a class trip at the end of our senior year."

"My favorite subject in school would definitely have to be Science. I have taken basically all of the classes that the school offers. I have taken science 9 (Introduction to high school science) all the way to Advanced Placement Biology, which was my favorite class. I am very interested in Biology and I hope to major in Biology and/or Chemistry when I continue on to college. We'll see what happens!"

Amanda has applied to 6 colleges and thus far she has been accepted at the University of New Hampshire, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Findlay and Lake Erie College. Her first choice is Virginia Tech and if she is accepted there she hopes to take Jesse with her, possibly boarding him at the school or at a barn near by.

Applying to colleges that have dressage teams that compete in the Intercollegiate Dressage Association, Amanda hopes to continue riding for all 4 years of her college career. She further explains: "Virginia Tech has a riding team and a very good dressage trainer. I've always wanted to go to school in Virginia because it is not too far away from home and then again it gives me a whole different environment."

"My family has always had horses. I began riding when I was about 6 or 7 and I did the little hunter/jumper shows. My mother's side of the family rides western, team roping, barrel racing, etc. so they would just throw me on a horse all the time. I would hop on my aunt's horse and chase the cows down the arena! I got my first horse, Sheza, in the summer of 2000. She was a hunter and we just did the local shows. We went to Florida in 2002 and that is when we found Jesse. He was a lower level event horse for a rider in Florida and they said his dressage was better than his jumping. Since I had begun riding dressage the winter before we purchased Jesse, I was looking for something challenging, but fun. Jesse was very high strung and anxious, that was the event horse in him. I spent all summer working with him and trying to teach him how to relax. Jesse and I have gone from no frame, with his head flying in the air, and now we are working on half-pass. It makes me very proud to see what we have accomplished in such a short time. Dressage is hard, I will admit to that, but there is some kind of satisfaction that is unexplainable after you have that perfect test."

Amanda currently trains with Diane Kennedy at Wells Valley Farm in New Milford, CT. She and Jesse began to compete in dressage in 2002 and placed first in the Training Level Division (15-17 age group) at the 2003 Northeast Junior Young Riders Championship at Ox Ridge in Darien CT. There were many riding achievements in 2003 including the Region 8 Championships, the CDA Spring Show and the NEDA Fall Festival.

"For the 2004 season I hope to move up to the First Level Test 4 by the end of the summer. I also hope to compete in some 3-phase events, but only at the Beginner Novice level." Amanda would like CDA to sponsor some dressage clinics with top riders or instructors.

Although relatively new to dressage, Amanda Wells is proud of hers and Jesse's achievements and she has determination and has set future goals for herself and her horse. We wish her success in college both in her academic career and in the riding arena with Jesse as a member of a college dressage team. In the meantime, enjoy your senior year in high school and thank you, Amanda, for sharing your experiences and goals as we are now "Getting to Know You"!

Opening Date: March 29, 2004

Closing Date: April 29, 2004

Sunday, May 2, 2004
Connecticut Dressage Association
Schooling Show

Location - Once Again Farm
750 Allen Ave.
Meriden, CT 06451

Judge: Beth Baumert (L)

Secretary: Kari Bradshaw
110 Goshen East St.
Norfolk, CT 06058
860-542-5375

Class List: USDF 2003 Introductory Tests A-B.
USEF 2003 Training 1-4.
USEF 2003 First 1-4.
USEF 2003 Second and above-State test to be ridden.
Dressage Seat Equitation. (Youth and Adult Amateurs only)

Fees: CDA members \$25 per Class.
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.
CDA High Point Award Medal: Awarded to the rider with the High Percentage Score of the show (excluding Equation Class)
Bit of Britain High Point Award: Monogrammed polar fleece cooler awarded to the rider with the High Percentage Score of the show (excluding Equation 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. 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: rkhotshoe@aol.com to have the schedule emailed to you. You will be able to view the ride times on the CDA Website on Saturday before the show.

Directions: From I-91 North: Take exit 17 to 691 West. Take Exit 4 off 691W. Turn left at the end of ramp. **Turn right onto third residential street, Gwen Road. 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 Avenue, turn left. Once Again Farm is 100 feet ahead on the right. From I-91 South: Take Exit 18 onto 691 West. Then 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 **

Opening Date: April 8, 2004

Closing Date: May 2, 2004

Saturday, May 8, 2004 Connecticut Dressage Association

Schooling Show

Location: Coventry Equestrian Center
220 Talcott Hill Road
Coventry, CT 06238

Judge: Corinna Scheller (L)

Secretary: Suzanne Markham
c/o Coventry Equestrian Center
220 Talcott Hill Road
Coventry, CT 06238
(860) 742-1900

Class List: USDF 2003 Introductory Tests A-B.
USEF 2003 Training 1-4.
USEF 2003 First 1-4.
USEF 2003 Second and above-State test to be ridden.
Dressage Seat Equitation. (Youth and Adult Amateurs only)

Fees: CDA members \$25 per Class.
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.
CDA High Point Award Medal: Awarded to the rider with the High Percentage Score of the show (excluding Equation Class)
Bit of Britain High Point Award: Monogrammed polar fleece cooler awarded to the rider with the High Percentage Score of the show (excluding Equation 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. 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: avator0583@aol.com to have the schedule emailed to you. You will be able to view the ride times on the CDA Website on Saturday before the show.

Directions: Directions from the West: Route 384 to Route 44. Make a right onto Route 31 after The Highland Park Market. Follow approximately 2 miles and make a Right onto Talcottville Road. The farm driveway is before the "S" turn on the right.

Opening Date: April 23, 2004

Closing Date: May 17, 2004

Sunday May 23, 2004
Connecticut Dressage Association
Schooling Show

Location: StoneLedge Farm
 116 Main Street
 Bethlehem, CT

Judge: Claudia Tarlov (L)

Secretary: Pam Bilodeau
 145 Mine Road
 Bristol, CT 06010
 860-585-6782

Class List: USDF 2003 Introductory Tests A-B.
 USEF 2003 Training 1-4.
 USEF 2003 First 1-4.
 USEF 2003 Second and above-State test to be ridden.
 Dressage Seat Equitation. (Youth and Adult Amateurs only)

Fees: CDA members \$25 per Class.
 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.
CDA High Point Award Medal: Awarded to the rider with the High Percentage Score of the show (excluding Equation Class)
Bit of Britain High Point Award: Monogrammed polar fleece cooler awarded to the rider with the High Percentage Score of the show (excluding Equation 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. 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. You will be able to view the ride times on the CDA Website on Saturday before the show.

Directions: From Fairfield County and New York
 Take Rt. 84 East to Exit 15 – at bottom of ramp go left onto Rt. 6, which is also Main Street. Follow through the center of Woodbury. At the intersection of Rt. 6 & Rt. 61, which is Bethlehem Rd./Main St., take a left onto Rt. 61 North. At the intersection of Rt. 61 North and Rt. 132 (single red blinking light/4 way stop), proceed straight. The farm is ½ mile on the right, #116.

From Hartford

Take Rt. 84 West to Exit 17 – follow to light. At the light take a right onto Rt. 63 (Straights Turnpike). Follow through the center of Watertown. Take a left onto Rt. 132 (which is also Judd Farm Rd) and follow to the intersection of Rt. 132 and Rt. 61 (single red blinking light/4 way stop). At the intersection, take a right onto Rt. 61 North. The farm is ½ mile on the right, #116.

From Winsted and Torrington

Take Rt. 8 South to Exit 38 – at the light at the end of the ramp go straight across onto Rt. 109. At the next light bear right and continue west on Rt. 109. Follow Rt. 109 into the center of Morris. At the intersection of Rt. 109 and Rt. 61, which is a 4 way stop, turn left onto Rt. 61 South. Go past the Bethlehem Fair Grounds. From the fair grounds, the farm is approximately 1 mile down on the left, #116.

From the Connecticut Shoreline and Rt. 95

Rt. 95 to Rt. 8 North to Exit 38 – at the end of the ramp, take a left. Follow to next traffic light. Go left at the light and follow to stop sign. At stop sign go left and immediately bear right onto Rt. 109. Follow Rt. 109 into the center of Morris. At the intersection of Rt. 109 and Rt. 61, which is a 4 way stop, turn left onto Rt. 61 South. Go past the Bethlehem Fair Grounds. From the fair grounds, the farm is approximately 1 mile down on the left, #116.

“The Hoof Prints Corner”

“Some horses come into our lives and quickly go. Others stay awhile, leave hoof prints on our hearts, and we are never, never the same.”

...Anonymous

Welcome to **“The Hoof Prints Corner.”** This is a new column for CDA’s *Centerline*, reserved for those horses that touch us in really special ways.

Like a best friend, if you are blessed with knowing one horse like this in a lifetime, you have something many people will never possess.....the joys and sometimes heartaches of experiencing the amazing kindness and intelligence of these great creatures.

If you know or have known one of these extraordinary horses in your life, please tell us about him or her. This allows the CDA membership to meet your special horse. Please try to keep your story to 300 words or less and send it to the *Centerline* via email to Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org (please use rtf format). If you prefer, you can mail your story to us at:

Centerline “Hoof Prints Corner”
John Gordon
24 Darren Court
Waterbury, CT 06708

As a reminder, your story should be sent to John by the 15th of each month. You will be notified by email (or phone) prior to your article being printed in the newsletter. Please be sure to include your full name, address, phone number and/or email.

Each published contributor to **“The Hoof Prints Corner”** during 2004 will receive a beautiful poster with the Hoof Prints quote on it. These will be presented at the next CDA Annual Party and Awards Celebration in early 2005. We hope to hear from you soon!

CDA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY...

Thanks to all of you who completed our survey at the Annual Members’ Party. 69% of those attending completed the questionnaire, which gives us a good cross section of our overall membership. The Board will be reviewing the results in greater detail during the next month or so, in order to incorporate *your* interests and preferences into our planning for future activities. I will make sure the conclusions are relayed to you through the “Centerline”.

Those of you who expressed an interest in volunteering at a show, writing an article for “Centerline”, or helping to organize an event, please get in touch with Kari Bradshaw, our Volunteer coordinator. I foolishly did not leave a place for you to put your name on the member survey so we don’t know who you are! You can reach Kari at volunteer@ctdressageassoc.org.

Leslie Weiss
CDA Vice President

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
Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org

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 2004 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>

2004 Advertising Rates

CDA Members

Non-CDA Member

<u>Page Size</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year</u>
Business Card	\$15	\$100	\$30	\$200
¼ Page	\$20	\$150	\$40	\$300
½ Page	\$25	\$200	\$50	\$350
Full Page	\$30	\$250	\$60	\$400

Make Checks payable to CDA

Experience the difference at the new

www.bitofbritain.com

(we're everywhere you want to be)



for the Horse
 for the Rider
 for the Barn

BIT OF BRITAIN

We care
 about horses.

1-800-972-7985

Bit of Britain
 141 Union School Rd.
 Oxford, PA 19363
 1-888-442-5015
 610-998-0400
 FAX: 610-932-9241

- ❖ Sign the Guest Book and let us know how you like our new additions!
 - ❖ 2003 Annual Party Pictures are now posted ~ click on the "CDA Activities Pictures" link
 - ❖ 2004 CDA Year-End Awards Program ~ worth reviewing since the 2004 show season begins soon!
 - ❖ 2004 CDA Calendar ~ check out the new format complete with contacts!
- Bookmark the CDA website www.ctdressageassoc.org as one of your "favorite" sites so you can easily check new additions on a regular basis. Here are some new items you can access right now:

CDA "Web" News

Centerline

Send Address changes to:

Donna Leonessa

3080 South Street

Coventry, CT. 06238

860-742-8110

e-mail: Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

CDA Newsletter for April, 2004

CDA BOARD MEETING Wednesday April 14 , 2004 at 6:15 PM
Call Fern Feldman at 203-272-0711 or Email - Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org for directions.