



# CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2005

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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](mailto:Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org)  
Subject: Centerline

**- CDA Website -**

[www.ctdressageassoc.org](http://www.ctdressageassoc.org)

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

## USDF National Education Center

By now, most of you have heard something about USDF plans to build a National Education Center in the Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY. Our effort to raise 5 million dollars for a building and for endowment for programs seems like a small challenge for an organization that has over 32,000 members nationally. Think of colleges that raise hundreds of millions—and always announce how they have surpassed their goal.

Why do we donate? Essentially, I believe that it is a matter of connection: how involved we are with the cause. I know that other causes may have greater immediacy, and I firmly believe that is the way it should be. Whether your primary charities are health-related, religion-related, event-related, or education-related (or, all of the above), I hope that those of us involved with horses feel the necessity to help others. Now, we who are involved with USDF are also asking that you consider donating to our cause.

There are many ways that you can help. First, of course, is to pledge a dollar amount to the USDF National Education Center. You can pledge a certain amount, and can pay that up front, or over 3-5 years. We are encouraging the latter, as it enables one to give a greater total amount. Another way to help is to become a part of the fundraising team. Perhaps you know of someone who might be able and willing to contribute to USDF if only he or she knew the importance of the project. Perhaps you are willing to host a gathering so that a greater number of enthusiasts might learn more. Just let me know, be willing to help, and I would be delighted to work with you on either of those projects.

Another way to help is to support your GMO, and encourage it to donate as an entity. The CDA Board has decided that it will support the campaign, and that announcement will be made at the CDA Awards Party on February 5, 2005. Join us; Leslie Weiss, President, will tell you what CDA is doing.

And, there is another fairly unique initiative that is happening in our area. A group of people have gotten together to raise money to honor Lendon Gray, and to raise \$250,000.00 to have the privilege of naming the Lendon Gray Bookstore in the new USDF building. Lendon has always been such a proponent of education, and such a force for dressage regionally, nationally, and internationally (having been to 2 Olympics). She has always been known as the person who would “ride anything”—it didn't have to be a fancy warmblood. And, of course, much of her fame is because of her successes with the ponies that she rode for Mrs. Whitehurst. Lendon has certainly championed the ponies and the young riders, but she is also known for her willingness to teach and work with anyone. There is a caveat, of course—that “anyone” had better been willing to learn and to try, as many of us are quite familiar with Lendon's famous “yoo-hoo”—which means YOU ARE REALLY IN TROUBLE NOW!! Kidding aside, we think this is a wonderful opportunity to honor someone who is still such a force for dressage and for all that it can do for us and our horses. So, if you are interested in supporting this initiative, feel free to contact me.

Ideally, many of us are able to contribute in more than one way. Please do not feel pressured, but do feel enthusiastic. I want to hear you say, “I have this much that I can pledge, and I'd like to support my GMO, AND I want to contribute individually, or through another initiative.” This is a good cause. USDF will have a presence in the Kentucky Horse Park along with many other organizations (particularly USEF, our national Federation), and many thousands of people will have an opportunity to see and visit us there.

Any questions or comments please contact me at [fern@cox.net](mailto:fern@cox.net); come to the CDA Awards Party and listen to Lendon's talk; or call me at 203-272-0711.

Fern Feldman  
USDF Region 8 Director and Recording Secretary of CDA

## 2005 Calendar of Events

### February 5, 2005

CDA Annual Party & Awards Celebration  
Contact: Leslie Weiss  
203-777-1950

### April 2, 2005

CDA Clinic  
It's All In Your Seat!  
with Vicki Hammers-O'Neil  
Once Again Farm  
750 Allen Ave.  
Meriden, CT 06451  
Leslie Weiss at 203-777-1950  
lesweis47@yahoo.com

### Date TBA

CDA Clinic  
Roel Theunessen  
Wadsworth Farm  
Danvers, Mass  
Donna Leonessa  
3080 South Street  
Coventry, CT 06238  
860-742-8110

### May 7, 2005

CDA Schooling Show  
Coventry Equestrian Center  
220 Talcott Hill Road  
Coventry, CT  
Donna Leonessa  
3080 South Street  
Coventry, CT 06238  
860-742-8110

### May 8, 2005

CDA Schooling Show  
Once Again Farm  
750 Allen Ave.  
Meriden, CT 06451  
Kari Bradshaw  
110 Goshen East St.  
Norfolk, CT 06058  
860-542-5375

### May 22, 2005

CDA Schooling Show  
StoneLedge Farm  
Bethlehem, CT.  
Nancy Blanchard  
P O Box 9  
Thomaston, CT 06787  
860-283-8748

### June 4 and June 5, 2005

CDA Spring Competition  
Ox Ridge Hunt Club  
Darien, CT  
Debra Reinhardt  
160 Woods Way Drive  
Southbury, CT 06488  
(203)264-2148  
(203)264-0086 fax  
debra@centerlineevents.com

## USDF 2004 Convention

This year the USDF Convention was held in Lexington, KY from November 30<sup>th</sup> thru December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The convention site was held at the Hyatt in downtown, which allowed me to visit one of my favorite restaurants in Lexington, Dudley's, which I did twice. This hotel venue was a great improvement from last year at Dallas, and the convention center had mini-mall of shops and a food court.

There were plenty of opportunities for you could take a trip the Kentucky Horse Park where USEF is located and the future address of USDF. Of course, the Kentucky Horse Park is famous for the Rolex 3-day event. As usual the meetings, university studies, and the board of governors filled my days to the max! Let me hit the highlights of the ones I attended!

In the competition management, we talked about the new rule changes that would affect managers and competitors. We discussed three proposed rule changes for next year's consideration. One such proposed rule was to only have a vet 'on-call' for all Dressage shows no matter the size of the show unless the show was a Championship, Selection Trial, etc. Another one was the food requirement. In all these rule proposals, competition management is trying to reduce the cost of the show. Having a Vet on the grounds cost a lot and that expense of course is transferred to the competitor. So it may not seem like it but management does and is trying to keep expenses down! Two MAJOR announcements were made. The USEF and USDF are going to join forces to have ONE...count it ONE...number for each person or horse. So this means that you will have one membership number for USEF and USDF. These two organizations will be working on logistics this year and hopefully have something to go into effect next year! LESS PAPERWORK!!! This brings me to the other great feature that USDF presented to management. The USDF's IT (Information Technology) Department has built a verification sequence that allows you to print the rider's, owner's, and horse's membership/registration cards on one sheet of paper! They even left room for you to put your USEF cards right next to them! YEAH!!!

Next, I attended the Membership Committee. There is a membership survey on the USDF website. If you have not yet done it, please do it. It will help this committee and USDF to know if they are doing well for their membership or need to improve. Two of the major changes will occur for 2006. First, Group Memberships, which is the type of membership you receive when you join CDA, will start from Dec 1 thru Nov 30 like the Participating Membership. So watch later this year as CDA's membership 2006 year may need to change to get into step with USDF.

At the FEI Managers meeting, we learned about rules that will cause fees to go up even higher if you can believe it! FEI Managers has asked the USEF Dressage Committee to write a letter to ask for them to be reconsidered. At the Technical Delegate meeting they went over new proposed rule changes. However, the big news was at the Regional Championship Meeting and was the buzz throughout the convention. I will discuss the BIG news at the BOG!

Board of Governors meeting! Or as we all call it 'the BOG'! Here is where we, Participating Members and Group Members, (like members of CDA), have a vote. I carried votes as your elected Participating Delegate for the Region and CDA's votes. All the council and committee Chairpersons give their reports. In this report, motions can be made, and projects can be accepted or declined by the voting delegates. The issues that were put in front of the

## 2005 CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION CLINICS

### IT'S ALL IN YOUR SEAT!

CDA presents an unmounted clinic with Vicki Hammers-O'Neil  
Saturday, April 2, 2005 at Once Again Farm in Meriden, CT

This clinic is designed to show the importance of sitting properly and will illustrate how a correct position evolves into an effective seat. This clinic is suitable for both adults and youth riders. There will be lecture, discussion, and participation in unmounted exercises for rider balance, flexibility and strength. Demonstrations will provide examples of how different rider conformations must adapt from the "textbook" or "ideal" position.

Look for Registration information in the February Centerline Newsletter. You can also contact Leslie Weiss at 203-777-1950; [lesweis47@yahoo.com](mailto:lesweis47@yahoo.com) if you would more information. (See page 5 of this issue)

### CDA's THIRD ANNUAL CLINIC WITH ROEL THEUNISSEN

Spring of 2005 - Date to be Announced

CDA will be hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual clinic with Roel Theunissen of Wadsworth Farm in Danvers, Mass. Many CDA members were first introduced to Roel through the CDA clinics. Roel's approach to working with each horse and rider combination is very straightforward and encouraging. The transformation of each horse/rider combination over the course of the clinic was noteworthy. Roel graduated from Deurne, the prestigious Dutch National Equestrian Institut. After graduation, he moved to Germany to study with internationally recognized trainer Georg 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.

CDA will donate funds to reduce the clinic fees for both riders and auditors. Please contact Donna Leonessa [dleonessa@hotmail.com](mailto:dleonessa@hotmail.com) 860-742-8110 for more information or to sign up as slots will fill quickly.

### UNLOCK YOUR HORSE'S POTENTIAL

CDA will be sponsoring an educational clinic with Shannon Oldham Dueck.  
September 10 and 11, 2005 at Grandview Stables in Columbia, CT

The clinic will focus on teaching horse/rider combinations exercises and patterns to improve basic gaits, introduce new movements and prepare for the next stage of training. Exercises will be tracked during the course of the clinic in order to provide each attendee with a complete list of exercises for each level ridden.

Shannon Oldham Dueck rides and trains in Massachusetts and Florida. Shannon received a Silver Medal at the '99 Pan Am Games with her horse, Korona. She and Korona also represented Canada at the World Games in Jerez. Shannon has been short listed for the Canadian team several times. She trains with Bert Rutten and Kathy Connelly. She has a Masters Degree in Equine Nutrition and taught at Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island.

CDA will donate funds to reduce the clinic fees for both riders and auditors. Please contact Donna Leonessa [dleonessa@hotmail.com](mailto:dleonessa@hotmail.com) 860-742-8110 or Esther Roberts at [estherroberts@juno.com](mailto:estherroberts@juno.com) for more information or to sign up as slots will fill quickly.

## EDUCATION NEWS

The Education Committee has planned three clinics this year. Each clinic will provide members with a valuable learning experience including tools for improving your dressage riding. The first clinic in April with Vicki Hammers-O'Neil will focus on the rider's seat and position. Vicki will provide clinic attendees with exercises and tools for evaluating and improving your seat. In May, we will host our third annual clinic with Roel Theunissen. The clinic with Roel has been held at different locations each year in order to allow everyone the benefit of his teaching. The clinic this year will be held in central Connecticut. Finally, CDA will be hosting a clinic in the Fall with Shannon Oldham Dueck. This clinic will focus on unlocking your horse's potential using gymnastic exercises. Shannon will provide clinic attendees with valuable exercises for each level of horse and rider. A complete list of exercises will be provided to everyone who attends.

We have included a one page listing of the 2005 Clinics in the Centerline with dates and details of who to contact. I look forward to seeing all of you there. Planning for 2006 events will begin in June. Please call me at 860-742-8110 if you have any thoughts on future clinics or clinicians.

- Donna Leonessa, Education Coordinator

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### **USDF's 2004 Annual Convention a Success**

The 2004 USDF Annual Convention was held in Lexington, KY, from Tuesday, November 30, through Friday, December 4. Attendees and organizers agreed that this convention was informative, fun, and well worth the time.

Each USDF region held two meetings, and the various councils and committees each held one closed meeting and one open meeting. The USDF's Board of Governors (BOG) met several times to hear council and committee reports and to discuss and vote on rule and bylaw changes.

The convention is not all work, though. Attendees were able to choose from among a wide variety of educational sessions. Talks were held on such diverse topics as art history, equine insurance and liability laws, how to organize events, how to apply for non-profit status, joint health in horses, equine nutrition, and marketing of sport horses.

In the "fun" category, the second annual Salute Gala was a festive evening of award presentations and speeches. Dressage legends Captain Andrew Bela de Szinay and Dr. Max Gahwyler were formally inducted into the USDF Hall of Fame. Kay Meredith, USDF president from 1977 to 1982, was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The deserving recipient of the USDF Volunteer of the Year Award, sponsored by The Paddock Saddlery, was Patsy Albers (MD). Following a video tribute to the Athens Olympics and Paralympics dressage teams, Olympian Robert Dover gave a moving speech about his experiences in the Olympics. He also accepted the Colonel Donald Thackeray Trophy for the USDF Grand Prix Horse of the Year, on behalf of FBW Kennedy's owner, Jane Forbes Clark.

The final official event during the Salute Gala was the unveiling of the Capital Campaign for the future USDF National Education Center. On behalf of Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Derrick Ramsey welcomed USDF to its future home at the Kentucky Horse Park. The campaign's key leaders joined Mr. Ramsey on stage for a ribbon-cutting ceremony signifying the beginning of the campaign. National Campaign Chairman Charles Smith (owner of the 2003 Colonel Thackeray Trophy winner, Rocher) cut the ribbon for USDF.

**"2004 Convention a Success" continued on page 6**

# IT'S ALL IN YOUR SEAT!

CDA presents an unmounted clinic with **Vicki Hammers-O'Neil**  
Saturday, April 2, 2005 at Once Again Farm

**This clinic is designed to show the importance of sitting properly and will illustrate how a correct position evolves into an effective seat. This clinic is suitable for both adults and youth riders. There will be lecture, discussion, and participation in unmounted exercises for rider balance, flexibility and strength. Demonstrations will provide examples of how different rider conformations must adapt from the "textbook" or "ideal" position.**

**Please wear warm, layered exercise clothes, such as fleece breeches, as you will be both sitting and exercising. Please also bring a chair and something to exercise on, such as a mat, big towel or old horse blanket to put down on the arena footing.**

Schedule: 9 AM Registration  
9:30- 10:30 Lecture by Vicki Hammers-O'Neil  
Break  
10:45-11:45 Participant exercise class with Ann Doyle  
11:45-12:30 Lunge line demonstration  
12:30 1:15 LUNCH (provided)  
1:15- 3:15 Demonstrations and Discussion

Directions to Once Again Farm: From I-91 North: Take exit 17 to 691 West. Take exit 4 off 691W. Turn left at the end of ramp. \*\* Turn right on to 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 \*\*.

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## REGISTRATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Member adult: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Non-member adult: \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ Youth: \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

You can join CDA at this event and pay the member price. **Registration closes 3/26/05.**

**Send completed registration and fee to LESLIE WEISS, 59 Hobart St., New Haven, CT 06511. For questions contact Leslie Weiss 203-777-1950; lesweis47@yahoo.com**

**Convention continued from page 2**

Board of Governors were many. However, the 'biggie' was the Regional Championship Committee Report. The committee put a motion on the floor to increase qualifying scores started in 2006. Scores went up 2 to 3 percentage points across the board. A ton of discussion occurred and came down to a vote. YEP! Roll Call vote was needed. This is where we as delegates need to actually vote because the vocal vote was too close to call plus we all carry different amounts of votes. This year the USDF's IT department had computers setup for this to occur...Really Cool!...The outcome was that the motion passed by 100 votes which means new qualifying scores go into effect for 2006. So watch for this info in the 2006 Omnibus or on the USDF website.

OH Yes! The election results...Odd number Regional Directors (ie. 1,3,5,7) were elected to the executive board, but our region being number 8 did not have elections this year.

Last but most important, at this convention, the kick-off for the capital campaign for the building the USDF offices, hall of

fame, and museum was done. Do you know if each member gave \$150 the building would be paid for? We spend more on breeches! Well you will be hearing more news about campaign as I am sure CDA will get involved, but you can find information on the USDF website or call Fern Feldman so you can do your part!

Next year the USDF Convention is in Los Angeles, and you should try to come. It is a lot of fun learning and talking to Dressage enthusiasts.

See you on the Centerline...  
Debra Reinhardt

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**"2004 Convention a Success" continued from page 4**

USDF President Dr. Samuel Barish said, "This project will give us the opportunity to create a showcase for the sport, a Hall of Fame for our human and equine dressage stars, and a permanent home for USDF in the heart of the horse capital of the U.S. The National Education Center will dramatically increase the visibility of USDF, our programs, and the sport of dressage. The Horse Park is an ideal location for us to promote the sport because it attracts 1 million people per year, who attend more than 60 annual equine or equestrian events."

The annual Awards Banquet saluted year-end award winners in multiple categories: USDF medals, dressage and sport horse breeding Horse of the Year awards, and the many All-Breed awards, just to name a few.

The 2005 USDF National Convention and Symposium will be held November 29-December 4 in Los Angeles, CA. Founded in 1973, the United States Dressage Federation is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to education, the recognition of achievement, and the promotion of the sport of dressage. For more information about USDF membership or programs, visit [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org), e-mail [usdressage@usdf.org](mailto:usdressage@usdf.org), or call (859) 971-2277.

**Jennifer D. Ford**

**(203)389-5873**  
jdford@optonline.net

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How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

- George Washington Carver

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Make Checks payable to CDA

### Christine Traurig Clinic

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> 2005

Red Horse Stables in Southbury, CT

Come and watch the 2000 USET Team Member during her first clinic at Red Horse! Riders & auditors welcome at all levels, please call for information at 203-217-6011 or visit us at [www.redhorsestablesct.com](http://www.redhorsestablesct.com)

All articles are to be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 2005 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



- Booker T. Washington

I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has had to overcome while trying to succeed.

#### Centerline

*Send Address changes to:*

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12 Easy Street

Plainfield, CT 06374

(860) 564-0214

e-mail: [Membership@ctdressageassoc.org](mailto:Membership@ctdressageassoc.org)

## CDA Newsletter for February, 2005

CDA BOARD MEETING Wednesday February 16, 2005 at 6:15 PM  
Call Fern Feldman at 203-272-0711 or Email - [Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org](mailto:Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org) for directions.