



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

February 2007

President

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

Vice President

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

Membership Secretary

Heidi Nottelman
860-779-7816
Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

Recording Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Education Coordinator

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

Omnibus

John Gordon
Omnibus@ctdressageassoc.org

Centerline

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

Awards Coordinator

Debra Reinhardt
203-264*2148
Awards@ctdressageassoc.org

Youth Program Coordinator

Vicki Hammers-O'Neil
203-238-3553
YPC@ctdressageassoc.org

Youth Representative

Kate Lussier
203-265-1977
JrYR@ctdressageassoc.org

Board

Kari Bradshaw
860-542-5375
Debra Reinhardt
203-264-2148

CENTERLINE

Send address changes to
Heidi Nottelman
179 Stetson Road
Brooklyn, CT 06374
860-779-7816
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.

February President's Message

It's Party Time! Let yourself off the bit for a little while and come to play with old and new friends. In case you have misplaced the details...

Date: February 10, 2007

Time: 6 PM

Place: Fern Feldman's house, 890 Mountain Rd, Cheshire, CT, 203-272-0711

What: Catered buffet, courtesy of CDA, BYOB please (set-ups provided)

Please bring a dessert if your name begins with A-L.

Silent Auction (please bring your checkbook!)—all proceeds help to reduce member costs for future CDA events.

Awards to our high score competitors and volunteers

Annual meeting: Elect some board members; find out about upcoming activities and events

**RSVP: If you plan to attend, please contact Leslie Weiss by Feb. 5
Lesweiss47@yahoo.com or 203-777-1950**

Directions to 890 Mountain Rd, Cheshire: From I-84: Take exit 26. At end of ramp, go south towards Cheshire, on Route 68/70. Follow 70 (68 goes to the right). After a gas station, make a right onto Mountain Rd. Go to a stop sign. Continue straight for 6/10 of a mile. Look for the white ranch on the left, circular drive.

From New Haven: Take I-91 North to exit 10. Follow the "connector", route 40, to the end. Turn right onto Route 10. Go about 8 minutes, passing McDonald's. Turn left onto Higgins Rd. Go to the very end to a stop sign. Make a left onto Mountain Rd. Go 6/10 mile. Look for the white ranch on the left with the circular drive.

See you there!
Leslie

Education News

The Education Committee is working feverishly to put together the events for 2007. On our schedule we will be conducting a Workshop that focuses on the new 2007 dressage tests. The Workshop entitled "A 360 Review of the New Dressage Tests" will be conducted by two clinicians on March 25th at Once Again Farm. The combined clinician approach will give us a full 360 perspective on how to best ride the new tests. Please review the Announcement posted this month for more details.

"Education News" Continued on page 4

2007 Calendar of Events

January 18, 2006

CDA Board Meeting
Fern Feldman
203-272-0711
Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org

February 10, 2007

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

April 28, 2007

Babcock Hill Equestrian Center
Coventry, CT
Terry Glendinning
860-742-0616
tm09g@yahoo.com

May 5, 2007

WFDA Competition
Ox Ridge Hunt Club
Darien, CT
Contact:
M. Chris Rogers Aquilio
216 Hammertown Road
Monroe, CT 06468
203-268-1633
mchrisrogers@sbcglobal.net

May 6, 2007

CDA Schooling Show
Once Again Farm
Meriden, CT
Contact:
Nancy Blanchard
860-283-8748

June 3, 2007

Abacus Events Schooling Show
R Folly Farm
Morris, CT
Contact:
Nancy Blanchard
860-283-8748

June 9-10, 2007

CDA Spring Recognized Show
Kasson Ridge Farm
Bethlehem, CT
Contact:
Kathleen Kiessel
908-996-5196
Fax: 908-996-5160
kmedve@earthlink.net

-Half Lease-

Columbia, CT. Small private dressage barn with beautiful indoor. Elegant Trakehner gelding, 8yrs 16.2h very quiet and safe. Adult Amateur. Only \$400/month
Contact Helen Muessel.
Evenings 860-529-8805 or
muessel_home@yahoo.com

UPCOMING ELECTIONS FOR CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

According to the CDA by-laws, adopted February 11, 2006, the membership of CDA must now elect ½ of the Board of Directors for a 2-year term. Of those nine people listed below, SEVEN WILL BE ELECTED at the Annual Meeting to be held on February 10, 2007. We are listing the proposed slate of Directors in this issue of Centerline for your consideration with brief bios of the candidates. If you will not be attending the Annual Meeting and Awards Party this year, you may contact me, president@ctdressageassoc.org, for an absentee ballot.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of directors, please contact me for more information. There will be an opportunity to write in additional candidates on the ballot.

Thank you for your participation in the governance of CDA.

Leslie Weiss, President

PROPOSED SLATE OF DIRECTORS FOR CDA

Kari Bradshaw

Katja Eilers

Marisa Evans

Fern Feldman

Doreen Jensen

Vicki Hammers-O'Neil

Heidi Nottelman

Stephanie Rossi

Bios

Kari Bradshaw: I have been a member of CDA for longer than I can remember and took over the position of Volunteer Coordinator about five years ago. As well as recruiting volunteers for our many activities I also enjoy my own horses at my home in Norfolk, CT. I would love to continue my work with the CDA for many years to come and believe that my many years of horse and people experience is a great benefit to the Association.

Katja Eilers: Happy New Year to all. For the past 23 years - I -Katja Eilers - have resided in the United States, and on the East Coast in New York & Ct. I am a approved FN Trainer from Germany, was licensed in 1982 and have produced many students

and horse combinations through out every USDF Level and the Small Tour FEI Level. I have assisted in coaching at International Shows, the largest Event being in Mexico in 1990. As well as having send Jr/Yr Riders to various Young Rider Competitions. Over the years I have gained some experience in organizing Schooling Shows and Clinics for known Trainers as Albrecht Heidemann, Hans-Juergen Armbrust, Tina Konyot, Gunnar Ostergaard , as well as most recently organizing a 30 Day Stallion Test. As a CT Resident I feel I want to help the Growth of Dressage in CT and would love to partake on the CDA Board. For any more information you can look up my website at www.katjaeilers.net.

Marisa Evans: I am interested in being considered for a position on the CDA board because I want to give more to this club that has given me so much. I have been a CDA member for a few years now and have been an active volunteer for the club since 2004. I have enjoyed scoring at our schooling shows and also teaching others to score. This past year, I was able to volunteer at our recognized show at Ox Ridge where I acted as ring steward and scorer. I was also able to assist in the proofreading of our 2006 Omnibus.

I am a training level rider working with Vicki Hammers-O'Neil to better myself and my horse (a Thoroughbred) and I feel I can help represent the "average" CDA member. I have held executive board positions with other clubs I belong to. I have even edited and overseen the production of the monthly newsletter for the CT MG Club (car club) with a membership of 300 plus. I am a team player with a positive attitude and a commitment to helping the CDA be all it can be!

Fern Feldman: I have been a CDA member for many years, and am a past president. Currently, I am the secretary. I am also the USDF Region 8 Director. CDA is a wonderful organization precisely because we have excellent people serving as Directors. Our membership is well-served – an important goal – but we are always looking to expand our services by encouraging more members to volunteer. You are always welcome to come to our monthly Board meetings.

Vicki Hammers-Neil is a USDF Certified Instructor Tr - 4th levels and a member of the USDF Instructor Certification Faculty. A dressage trainer and instructor for over 20 years, Vicki teaches riders of all ages and levels at Peter Flagg's Once Again Farm, in Meriden, Connecticut. Vicki is an active competitor, having earned her USDF Bronze and Silver Medals, as well as winning numerous local and regional

awards. Vicki's positive teaching style makes her a popular clinician, adult camp instructor and trainer.

Teaching youth riders has been something that has always been part of Vicki's life, whether it involves Pony Club clinics, organizing summer camps or establishing a children's lesson program at an already successful riding school. For the past three years, Vicki has been the Youth Education Coordinator, as well as acting as chef d'equipe for the CDA Youth Teams who attended and competed successfully in the Lendon Gray Youth Festival.

Heidi Nottelman: Currently I am the membership secretary for CDA, responsible for receiving memberships, updating the USDF roster monthly, sending out renewal forms once a year, and answering membership questions. At the beginning of the year, I send out thank you letters for scholarship donations. I also organize the donations for the Silent Auction at the Year-End awards party. In my free time, I enjoy riding my 18 year old Appendix Quarter Horse, Amber, and training her 2 1/2 year old Pinto/Paint daughter, Ema.

Doreen Jensen: My name is Doreen Jensen. I have been a member of CDA for a while; I don't even know how many years. I got my first horse when I was 13 (an unbroken POA) and learned by the get-on, ride-till-you're-thrown-then-get-on-again method. I started riding western, just trail riding for pleasure then showed in a few pleasure and trail classes. I changed to an English saddle to do competitive trail rides and discovered I loved jumping. After a few lessons I started doing hunter/jumper and equitation classes. Then I discovered eventing and fell in love. That's what led me to the CDA (through Marcie and John Gordon-who boarded their horses with me). I've been attending meetings since last year and have worked on committees as a helping hand. I feel I would bring an "outsider's" perspective as classic dressage is not my primary interest. As an eventer I know I'm always trying to improve my dressage and I know there are lots of others out there like me.

DRESSAGE 4 KIDS Fourth Weekend Educational Program Feb 3/4

Waterbury: Post University's Equine Department will once again host the annual program organized by two-time Olympian Lendon Gray - Dressage4Kids, to be held Saturday and Sunday, February 3 and 4. It is a great weekend for anyone of all ages interested in riding, let alone dressage, and will include advice from experts that every trainer, competitor, horse owner and parent will learn from and enjoy.

There will be special talks for parents, amateurs, trainers and young riders. The program is ideal for Pony Club members working on upgrading their tests, for instructors working on certification, or just riders interested in learning more. All talks will be supported by handouts, power-point presentations and videos, and provide an opportunity to learn from the top experts.

Speakers include: Susan Harris – World-renowned author and lecturer; Alison End – FEI Competitor, USDF Certified Instructor, Balimo Core Instructor; Fern Feldman – Amateur FEI rider, USDF Region 8 Director; Lendon Gray – Two-time Olympian, USDF Instructor Certification Examiner, renowned instructor and author; Margaret Freeman – USEF S judge, favorite clinician and lecturer; Vicki Hammers-O'Neil, USDF Instructor Certification Faculty; Robin Levine, Personal Trainer, Fitness Instructor, and rider; **and Laura Akin, a mother who specializes in developing sponsorship packages for riders.**

"Education News" Continued from page 1

We are also planning two other events this year that will provide members with the opportunity to ride with top level clinicians: Silke Rembacz, will be returning this year to conduct a clinic for CDA. Last year members who rode with Silke were thrilled with her logical approach to improving their horses. Silke used different exercises for each horse/ rider combination based on their skill set and level. A second clinician will be announced at a later date. Dates and locations will be announced in the Centerline shortly. Both of the riding events are subsidized by the Yearly Auction held at the Year End Members Party. Please be sure to come to the party and if possible donate an item that can be auctioned.

This year we are thrilled to have an EcoGold Air Cooler donated by Judy Francisco to raffle off. All of the money raised will be used for educational events. The EcoGold Air

The lectures will be held at Post University Leever Student Center, Waterbury, CT from 8 AM to 6:30 PM on Saturday and 8 AM to 4 PM on Sunday. (*Take Exit 17 off Interstate 84. onto Rt. 63 South. At light near Mobil Station, turn left on Country Club Rd. The Leever Building parking is the third entrance on the left near the top of the hill. Meals may be purchased at the campus dining hall in the same building.*)

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone involved with dressage and with horses—from equine professionals, to young competitors and their parents—to learn important tools that lead to success in the horse world. SPACE IS LIMITED.

BY JANUARY 20TH, the fees for the weekend are - Youth — \$10/day - \$15 for weekend: Adults — \$20/day - \$35 for weekend. (Adults who bring five or more attendees get in free). AFTER JANUARY 20TH - Youth — \$15/day - \$20 for weekend: Adults — \$25/day - \$40 for weekend. Meals are \$10 at the campus Dining Hall – all meals must be paid in advance. *Make checks payable to Dressage4Kids, Inc. and Mail to: Lendon Gray, 25 Lake Avenue, Bedford, NY 10506.*

For more information contact Lendon Gray (914) 234-4158 (evenings only) or email - graydressage@optonline.net or Carole Baker – (203) 596-4631 or cbaker@post.edu.

Cooler is considered the best cooler in the market. Made with the most effective material to quickly cool down and dry a hot, wet horse. The EcoGold Air Cooler retails at \$300.00. Raffle tickets will be sold at all CDA events and the cooler will be raffled off at the end of the year. Please reach out to Judy Francisco, Ecogold representative, at 508-826-9750 to learn more about the Ecogold products.

We are also beginning a new program to raffle off a free lesson (max \$50.00 each) to 5 lucky people who attend the educational Workshop. We are excited to offer this new benefit to our members.

See you all soon,
Esther, Kevin and Donna

USDF Savoie Adult Clinics to Offer Door Prizes, Lecture, Free Educational Materials

Lexington, KY (January 9, 2007) - United States Dressage Federation (USDF) is pleased to announce that dates for four of the Jane Savoie Adult Clinics have been confirmed. Tropical Rider has generously donated a baseball cap for each pre-registered auditor as a gift and a pair of breeches to be offered as a door prize at each of Jane's clinics. The clinic dates and locations for 2007 are March 3-4 in Benton, LA, March 24-25 in Ashland, NE, April 14-15 in Lebanon, CT, and October 13-14 in Fort Collins, CO.

The theme for the clinics is "Believe You Can; Ride the Possibilities," focusing on Jane's sports psychology first expounded in her bestselling book, "That Winning Feeling." While the series of clinics is aimed primarily at adults riding Training through Fourth Levels, FEI level riders are also welcome to attend.

The clinics will feature a lecture each day, as well as riding for USDF members interested in benefiting from Jane's wealth of knowledge and expertise. Riders and horses participating

in these clinics should have a history together in order to maximize the auditor educational experience, but a competitive history is not necessary.

"Jane has also graciously offered to supply auditors with a few handouts to help them maximize their learning experience," stated Kathie Robertson, Senior Coordinator for the program. "Jane and USDF really want everyone to benefit from her many years of experience at the highest levels."

"We are so excited to be working with Jane," Kathie added. "She brings a wealth of knowledge on how to eliminate mental barriers in your riding and that is the type of thing that many of our adult amateurs struggle with every day."

For more information on the USDF Adult Clinic Series featuring Jane Savoie, please visit the USDF web site at www.usdf.org/Programs/AdultClinics/ or contact Kathie Robertson at 859-271-7877 or via email at adultclinics@usdf.org or krobertson@usdf.org.



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The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.

URGENT TRAILS ALERT- January 2007

Calling all Trail Riders - SAVE OUR TRAILS!

DEP Public Hearing: February 5, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

The DEP has announced that they are making a regulation change specific to horses, which reads as follows: “Trails are open unless posted closed to hiking, mountain biking, or other types of trail-related activities. Horseback riding is prohibited on trails unless posted as permitted. Use of any trail, road or path posted as closed by the DEP is prohibited”.

WHAT THIS MEANS TO HORSE OWNERS IN CONNECTICUT: You will lose access to most of the trails that are now available for equestrian use. Such signage for horseback riding as noted above is currently inconsistent or non-existent. This would remove horse access from almost all trails!!

CHC believes that the DEP should align horse traffic with other user groups, and allow horses on all trails except where posted as prohibited. Over the past 20 years CHC has been diligently working with DEP to keep trails open for equestrian access. This proposed regulation change is contrary to past conversations, and the current usage practices on trails throughout the state.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The CHC is calling attention to this proposed regulation and will need every equestrian to come to the public hearing and ask that this regulation be appealed before the regulations are finalized. Please attend the public hearing on **February 5, 2007** at 7:30 p.m. at Phoenix Auditorium - 5th Floor at 79 Elm Street (DEP Building), Hartford, CT 06106.

(If state offices are closed due to inclement weather, on Feb. 5th, the hearing will take place on Feb 6th, at the same time and place.)

Let DEP know that horses should not be excluded. That horseback riding should be categorized with the other user groups, and trails should be open to riding unless posted closed. If equestrians do not speak up, we will lose trails.
Please attend this hearing and tell friends!

There is also a public comment period. Written comments will be accepted through February 13, 2007 and should be submitted to Pamela Aey Adams, Director, State Parks Division, Department of Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106 (telephone: 860 424-3200).

Additionally—send your written comments to the Regulation Review Committee:

A list of those members and contact information will be posted on the CHC website

If you have questions, please contact CHC trails chair, Diane Ciano at Spirit76@snet.net
Or CHC President Amy Stegall at Stegall@snet.net (860) 684-6583. You may also visit the CHC website for updates www.cthorsecouncil.org (a copy of the proposed regulations will also be available on the CHC site shortly) along with directions.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! UNITED WE RIDE!

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

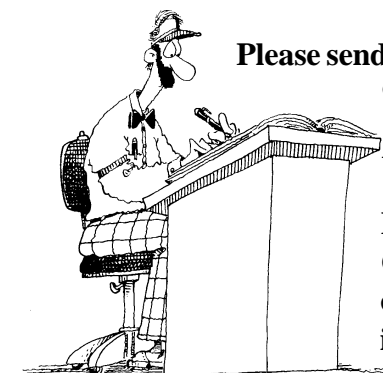
**John Gordon
Attn. CENTERLINE
24 Darren Court
Waterbury, CT 06708-3903**

or

They can be Emailed to me at Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org

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 2007 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>**

“Our limitations in life do not lie in the midst of our abilities but lie in the positive attitude to see past our abilities.”

Mohammed Onotu — Nigeria

2007 Advertising Rates

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