

THE NEWS

North Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association



www.NCDCTA.org

1st Quarter Issue, 2023

Important Notice!

USEF SAFE SPORT TRAINING REQUIREMENT:

If you are a USEF Competing Member 18 years of age or older you are required to complete the core Safe Sport Training within 7 days of activating your membership.

If you do not complete the training, you are ineligible to participate in all USEF activities including competitions. TAKE the SAFE SPORT TRAINING at USEF.org by logging into your member dashboard.

For more information visit: <https://www.usdf.org/competitions/usefsafesport.asp>

HOLD THE DATES AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

The NCDCTA Equine Festival is on July 21-23, 2023 at Portofino Equestrian Center!

We will have 3-4 clinicians (dressage, pressure-proofing/sports psychology, eventing, and possibility western dressage). We will also be having seminars on Saturday/Sunday on various topics, as well as a "vendors row".

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Lysa Hodgson riding Dark Knight (Decon) at the November 2022 US Dressage Finals in Lexington, Kentucky. Successfully and gratefully finishing, the First Level Adult Amateur Championship class with rain/sleet/snow falling, earning 8th place. Photo Credit: Susan Stickle Photography

Stay up to date on NCDCTA Events!
Championships, Equine Festival, Shows,
Clinics, Grants, and special Events!

Visit: <https://www.ncdcta.org/calendar>

NCDCTA 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VISIT WWW.NCDCTA.ORG FOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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NCDCTA NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MAY 1ST FOR THE 2ND QUARTER ISSUE!

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES: MEMBERS RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT.

MEMBER RATES: \$135 FULL PAGE, \$90 HALF PAGE, \$54 QUARTER PAGE

NON-MEMBER RATES: \$150 FULL PAGE, \$100 HALF PAGE, \$60 QUARTER PAGE

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - SHANNON ST. CLAIR HOFFMAN - NEWS@NCDCTA.ORG OR (919) 754-7568

ANNUAL NCDCTA MEMBERSHIP: (EXPIRES 11/30 ANNUALLY)

SENIOR MEMBER - \$59, JUNIOR MEMBER - \$49, FAMILY MEMBER - \$39

(FAMILY MEMBER MUST RESIDE AT THE SAME ADDRESS AS ACTIVE SENIOR MEMBER)

JOIN/RENEW TODAY AT: WWW.NCDCTA.ORG/MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL NCDCTA HORSE OF THE YEAR REGISTRATION (EXPIRES 11/30 ANNUALLY)

HORSE REGISTRATION - \$50 OR ONE VOLUNTEER CARD

REGISTER YOUR HORSE TODAY AT: WWW.NCDCTA.ORG/HORSE-REGISTRATION

REMINDER:

TO QUALIFY FOR HORSE OF THE YEAR (HOY), RIDER/OWNER MUST BE ACTIVE MEMBERS AND HORSE MUST BE REGISTERED AT THE TIME POINTS ARE EARNED.

Newsletter Advertising Rates:

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To place an Ad:
 Shannon Hoffman
news@ncdcta.org

The USDF & Its Amazing Resources

By: Helen Ingersoll

Lynn Kerin and I attended the 2022 USDF Convention in Lexington, Ky. in early December. We traveled with our Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Janine Malone.

First, a few observations about Janine. You better be ready to KEEP UP! She is whip smart and knows a ton about the organization she has served for so many years. Rules questions, CHECK. Competition questions, CHECK. Want to meet and have a chance to talk to USDF presidents and officers past and present? CHECK. Janine truly shepherded us through a sea of people and introduced us to anyone who might have some valuable experience to share with us on how to help our own GMO be better. We had a chance to have great conversations with several people who had lots of experience serving at both the USDF and GMO level. Having a chance to share ideas and ask questions was such a great opportunity.

The other thing that really stuck me is HOW MUCH THE USDF HAS TO OFFER! There are education opportunities galore. Just check out the website and you will see. The drop down menu under education has an incredible amount of content to look into. Want to dive into a judging path? You can start with the "L" Program. How about university credits? There are so many great topics to explore. In addition, there are lots of USDF sponsored live clinic opportunities to audit.

We also got to hear about the new tests from the perspective of both a trainer and a judge. It was so wonderful to hear the amount of thought put into making the changes so that the tests were better to ride and to judge.

The new schooling show program was also great to hear about. You can learn more about it here: <https://www.usdf.org/awards/performance/regional-schooling.asp> Over the three days it really became clear that there is something for everyone who loves the sport of dressage within the USDF.

We were definitely coming home feeling a sense of camaraderie and excitement as well as feeling of supported. It's my hope that this year I can learn more and share more with all of you about how we can utilize the vast resources that are available to us in the USDF.



Helen Ingersoll and
Lynn Kerin at the
USDF Convention



Our NCDCTA Representatives who
attended the USDF Convention:

Pictured L to R:

Lynn Kerin

Donna Kelly

Janine Malone

Lorraine Musselman

Helen Ingersoll

*North Carolina Dressage &
Combined Training Association*

2022 HORSE OF THE YEAR

AWARDS CEREMONY & DINNER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023

*Grandover Resort & Spa
Greensboro, North Carolina*



THE NCDCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE MEMBERS FOR THEIR
SUPPORT IN CREATING A GREAT YEAR OF COMPETITION, SPORTSMANSHIP, AND WARM
CAMARADERIE. WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EXCITING 2023 SEASON!

-Sarah Bookner GALA CHAIR

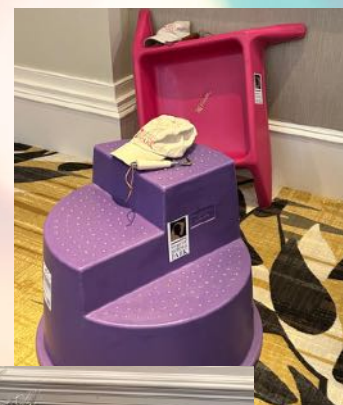
HOY Gala Report

Grateful for our Raffle Sponsors - Thank You!

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 Banixx
 Carolina Horse Park Entry
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 Hamilton Chiropractic
 The Dressage Foundation
 Biostar US
 Teena Middleton/Ezium
 Darlene Ivey Artwork
 Linda Berg



We had an awesome selection of prizes for the drawings!
Please patronize these businesses and thank them for their support of NCDCTA!

HOY Gala Report

2022 NCDCTA Lifetime Achievement Award

Janine W. Malone



Janine Malone has had a lifelong involvement with horses. She is a USEF "R" Dressage judge, "R" Dressage Sport Horse Breeding judge, "R" Dressage Technical Delegate and a Level 3 FEI Chief Steward for Dressage. She was USDF Region 1 Director from 1996-2001, USDF Secretary for eleven years, and the USEF Vice-President for FEI Affiliates for several years. She previously served several terms on the USEF Board of Directors. Janine has been an instructor/trainer, has competed and is a graduate "A" Pony Clubber.

She organized an FEI-recognized event (CDI Raleigh) for seventeen years, and is owner/manager of a former breeding farm in North Carolina. She received the first USDF "ABIG/USDF Volunteer of the Year" award in 1998 and a USDF Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014.

Janine received the Sallie Busch Wheeler Trophy for distinguished service to the equine industry from then USEF in recognition of her volunteer work, and in 2016, US Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) awarded Janine a USHJA President's Distinguished Achievement Award, in recognition.

Janine was formerly an Eventing judge, TD and organizer, and she served the U.S. Pony Clubs in various volunteer capacities. On several occasions, she has been a clinician for the USEF Dressage Technical Delegate clinic.

For many years, Janine has been active on several USDF and USEF committees, and is currently or formerly a member of the USEF Dressage Committee, and currently serves as chair of the USEF Competition Management committee and USDF Regional Championships Committee. She also chairs dressage "rules" committees for both USDF and USEF. She is also a board member of the Association of International Dressage Event Organizers (IO). She retired in 2016 from the positions of organizing committee chairman and manager of the US Dressage Finals.

Janine currently owns and operates Rosinburg Events LLC, which organizes several dressage competitions in North Carolina and (through 2021) Virginia.

Photo Credit: High Time Photography

HOY Gala Report

2022 NCDCTA Lifetime Achievement Award

Michele Karwoski



Originally raised in Ridgefield, Connecticut, Michele Karwoski moved to Raleigh to open M & M Pet Supplies and Tack in April 1991. That fall, Michele approached Caroline MacNair, of MacNair's Country Acres, about taking over the private tack shop building located on the farm. That was the birth of M & M Tack Shop, first supporting the greater Triangle community and over time, the continental US. In 2022, M&M Tack Shop celebrated 31 years of providing quality service to the equestrian community.

In 1993, Michele started apprenticing with David Young, Master Saddler from England, and in 2002, went to England for certification from the internationally renowned British Society of Master Saddlers. Over the years, she has spent time with some of the world's elite saddle fitters, including Sherry Belton of Albion, and manufacturers and designers in the equestrian world including Roy Burek of Charles Owen. In 2022, Michele was celebrated with an award for being a Platinum Partner with Ariat International.

Beyond saddle fitting, Michele expanded both her personal and business' expertise to include providing custom footwear and apparel, and bridle fitting, along with an ever-growing business embracing the digital world. She has spent decades supporting her customers and community through competition, college team, organization and rider sponsorships and donations, and hosting educational talks and seminars. She looks forward to more opportunities in the future. In her personal life, Michele has competed regionally through 2nd Level and still enjoys a round in the jumper ring.

Photo Credit: High Time Photography

HOY Gala Report - Eventing

GREEN AS GRASS

SPONSORED BY ON TOPP STABLES

JR/YR

CHAMPION: TORNADO - DALIA STETLER

RESERVE CHAMPION: SUGAR RUSH - AVA SPENCER

3RD DREAM A LITTLE - WRENN BAILEY

4TH UNBEARABLE WITHOUT YOU - LONDON WILDE

5TH FERNHILL MASTERCLASS - SOPHIE CASE

6TH TDF SINS GOLD RUSH - BRIANNA STOCK

OPEN

CHAMPION: GALAHAD SZ - ERIKA DAVIS

RESERVE CHAMPION: CF GISELLA - HEATHER KING

3RD XAPADO DO TOP - NATASHA RUSSELL

4TH REDEEMABLE - CORALIE PURCELL

5TH DOUBLE STUF - JONI SHIMP - SOPHIA GNYP-SHIMP

5TH IRON COLONY - JENNIFER PATTERSON

MAIDEN

SPONSORED BY BURKE BROTHERS HARDWARE

JR/YR

CHAMPION: HAY Y'ALL WATCH THIS - ASHLEIGH HASTINGS

RESERVE CHAMPION: ALL THAT JAZZ - AVA BROOKE BAILEY

3RD ON TOPP SILVER LINING - OLIVIA GOBLE

4TH TRUST LIAM - CHLOE SHARPE

5TH BELLA BE WITH ME - NIELLY QUINONES

6TH ACE'S ZANDER - BAILEY WRIGHT

OPEN

CHAMPION: TALISMAN - JOAN HILSMAN

RESERVE CHAMPION: EXCEL STAR LEAP OF FAITH - SUSAN BRISTOL

3RD ALPINE SON - SYDNEY MEACHAM

4TH IRON COLONY - JENNIFER PATTERSON

5TH REDEEMABLE - CORALIE PURCELL

6TH HOOSIER ZIP - JOAN HILSMAN



HOY Gala Report - Eventing

BEGINNER NOVICE

SPONSORED BY SPORT OF HORSES PARK

JR/YR

CHAMPION: ONE FINE BAY - KENTON WILLARD

RESERVE CHAMPION: MAGICAL MOMENT - PARKER FOLEY

3RD BELLA BE WITH ME - NIELLY QUINONES

4TH URIEL 2013 - CLAUDIA FOUSHEE

5TH HS LUCKY STRIKE - AMELIA NORDSKOG

6TH IT'S BO TIME - CARLY SEUS

OPEN

CHAMPION: JONAH - CINDY MCNEELY

RESERVE CHAMPION: GOOD GIRL PEARL - COURTNEY BAUER - SHERRY SMITH

3RD GILLIGAN - DIANNE MAY

4TH NOTROUBLEATALL - PAITON KEEN

5TH BALLYMORES CHARISMA - AMY WARREN

6TH PARKMORE IRISH ANNIE - AMANDA MILLER

NOVICE SPONSORED BY CINDY MCNEELY

IN HONOR OF: CHARLIE MUSCO, Nanci Lindroth, and Annie Maunder

JR/YR

CHAMPION: DIABLO - WILLOW CHASE

RESERVE CHAMPION: SKYBOUND SKITTLES - SARAH DEMPSEY - DARCY DEAN

3RD CHARLEMAGNE - JAIME MILLER-VAIL

4TH ASTROBOY - ANNA ERICKSON

5TH OY TO THE WORLD - DARCY DEAN

6TH BELLA BE WITH ME - NIELLY QUINONES

OPEN

CHAMPION: EMMETT OTTER - BARBIE GIBSON

RESERVE CHAMPION: ARTHUR HF - KAREN MAHAFFEY

3RD MIGHTY GRACE - AMBER MABUS

3RD SOUTHERN CIDER - JESSICA BROWN

5TH CF BALTIC ROYAL TEE - HEATHER KING

5TH LION OF BORDEAUX - DORIAN ANILINE



HOY Gala Report - Eventing

TRAINING

SPONSORED BY WHITE WINDS FARM EQUESTRIAN CENTER

JR/YR

CHAMPION: DIABLO - WILLOW CHASE
RESERVE CHAMPION: MISS TLC - MARGO DEAL
3RD OY TO THE WORLD - DARCY DEAN
4TH FVF TOP GUN - DYLAN PHILIPPS



OPEN

CHAMPION: CARLINGFORD CASTLE - KATHERINE THORNTON - BOB THORNTON
RESERVE CHAMPION: SUNNY ONE - DON WARREN
3RD LION OF BORDEAUX - DORIAN ANILINE
4TH CRACKER T - RILEY LORENZ
5TH BALLENGER - STEPHANIE BRISTOL
6TH GREAT MOMENTS - JULIE CAYER

MODIFIED

JR/YR

CHAMPION: FVF TOP GUN - DYLAN PHILLIPS

OPEN

CHAMPION: ANA D - HOLLY HUDSPETH - CINDY DEPORTER
RESERVE CHAMPION: CRACKER T - RILEY LORENZ
3RD FINNTASTIC! - HEIDI GRIMM POWELL
4TH FERNHILL PICTURE THIS - LISA CHAN
5TH CARLINGFORD CASTLE - KATHERINE THORNTON - BOB THORNTON
6TH DELMONICO - BECCA SWANN - MARY TOMPKINS

PRELIMINARY AND ABOVE...

SPONSORED BY DIMMETTE DRESSAGE/SWANN CT

JR/YR

CHAMPION: FVF TOP GUN - DYLAN PHILIPPS

OPEN

CHAMPION: KDR KINGSTON - KRISTI FORESMAN
RESERVE CHAMPION: FINNTASTIC! - HEIDI GRIMM POWELL
3RD REVITAVET PERKUNOS - KRISTI FORESMAN
4TH FERNHILL PICTURE THIS - LISA CHAN
5TH CRACKER T - RILEY LORENZ
6TH FERNHILL B GOOD - CAITLIN ROMEO

HOY Gala Report - Dressage

INTRODUCTORY LEVEL

SPONSORED BY OLD MILL FARM

JR/YR

CHAMPION: TORNADO - DALIA STETLER

RES CHAMPION: WINDFIELD TOMATILLO - REAGAN PFYFFER - JENNIFER FLOWERS

3RD SCF OVER THE RAINBOW - FINLEIGH FLOWERS - JENNIFER FLOWERS

4TH BURSTING BUBBLES - HOLLAND BIRD - BETH PARSONS BIRD

5TH WEST POINT - HOLLAND BIRD - BETH PARSONS BIRD

6TH SECOND WIND - KATE DEBUSE - PAULA NELSON

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: DEM MONDEGO - NICHOLE OSTER

RESERVE CHAMPION: ZEALOUS COMMANDER - ASHLEY WORD

3RD HOLD MY CHAMPAGNE - COLLEEN CERCONO

4TH A MILLION DREAMS - ALLISON BLOUGH

5TH HESA ROWDY SONNY BAR - SHANNON ODENWELDER

6TH BALOUPRINT - KATHY NEKTON

OPEN

CHAMPION: JAVALENAQHR - COURTNEY BAUER

RESERVE CHAMPION: DRACARYS BLN - KRIS DANIE

3RD ISAÄK FAN HARDENBERG - ELIZABETH HODGES - JONI SHIMP

TRAINING LEVEL

SPONSORED BY MP SPORTHORSES

JR/YR

CHAMPION: CATALINA - HARPER KANE

RESERVE CHAMPION: SYNERGY - CAROLINE THOMPSON

3RD REBEL WITHOUTA CAUSE - ELLIE CHISHOLM

4TH HAY Y'ALL WATCH THIS - ASHLEIGH HASTINGS

5TH BELLA BE WITH ME - NIELLY QUINONES

6TH BEAUCHAMPDE NOELLE - MICHAELA CANNON

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: DIAMONT - DANA FOSTER

RESERVE CHAMPION: IMAGEOF CANINA - SANDY HIGGINS

3RD HILLCREEK CELTICBUG - LORI JOHNSON

3RD WING MAN - RENA RHODES

5TH GALAHADSZ - ERIKA DAVIS

6TH DARK KNIGHT - LYSA HODGSON

OPEN

CHAMPION: WARSTEINER - ANDREA GUMRICH

RESERVE CHAMPION: NALANI MP - MEL HARPER

3RD SUBLIMESWS - JEANNE KARVER

4TH ZEUS - MEL HARPER- NICOLE FULCHER

5TH DRACARYSBLN - KRIS DANIEL

6TH DENOVO- HELEN INGERSOLL - RENEE HALL



HOY Gala Report - Dressage

FIRST LEVEL

SPONSORED BY K5 PARTNERS

JR/YR

CHAMPION: CHARLEMAGNE - JAIME MILLER-VAIL

RESERVE CHAMPION: REBEL WITHOUTA CAUSE - ELLIE CHISHOLM

3RD D'ARCYSF - JACQUELINE MOORE

4TH BEAUCHAMPDE NOELLE - MICHAELA CANNON

5TH HENRY HILL - MAGGIE BISHOP

6TH FVF TOP GUN - DYLAN PHILIPPS

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: BOREALIS BLUME - JODY MORSE

RESERVE CHAMPION: JAANBREKER DMS - SARA PLACENTRA

3RD DANIKA - CHERI HODGDON

4TH FREAKYLIKE ME - JESSICA MCCASKILL

5TH WILFORDHALL - BRI GINDLESPERGER

6TH RHYTHM - ALISONCARR - ALISON CARR

OPEN

CHAMPION: EPIPHANYBAY INDEPENDENCE-SHAUNNA DUNLAP-MICHELE NOVACK

RESERVE CHAMPION: JULIO IX - JEAN DEVENNY- SANDY HIGGINS

3RD LINDRINIWF - KRISTIN LAYTON

4TH FIDERRYDER KF - ASHLEY DIMMETTE

5TH DW FIRESTORM - ELIZABETH HART - CAMILLASHADLEY

6TH SBF HERSHEYNOUGAT - EM DANDURAND - JANINE MARKHAM

SECOND LEVEL

SPONSORED BY CENTRIC FARM

JR/YR

CHAMPION: PICNIC IN THE PARK - SYDNEY LANGLEY

RESERVE CHAMPION: URIEL 2013 - CLAUDIA FOUSHEE

3RD WINTERFELL - SAONA WILCOX

4TH TEMPORARYSANITY - SOPHIAHATLEM - AMANDA PARIS

5TH CAPSTONE'S OH HENRY - KEELIN CRAIGE- MOLLY RYAN

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: ROCK ROYALE - SERINA TART

RESERVE CHAMPION: BINGHAM- KATHY NEKTON

3RD STELLA BRILJANTE - BEVERLY BRUMMETT

4TH HUCKS WILD ANNIE - MARY ANN LAFERRIERE

5TH HEINRICH VON KÜSTEN - KAREN LAUNIS

6TH BRISTOLLSF - MICHELLE MARTIN

OPEN

CHAMPION: FREE AGENT- ELIZABETH HART - LINDA PETERS

RESERVE CHAMPION: LINDRINIWF - KRISTIN LAYTON

3RD LNZ'SFANCY TRUSS - COURTNEY BAUER

4TH SBF DONNA DELINA - ASHLEY DIMMETTE- JANINE MARKHAM

5TH RELIANT- CAMYN HUNEYCUTT

6TH CARTERISTA CDF - ASHLEY BURD WHICKER- BUFFY STRONG

6TH SIR KAINE - CATHERINE GRIMES



HOY Gala Report - Dressage

THIRD LEVEL

SPONSORED BY RIVENDELL FARM LTD.

JR/YR

CHAMPION: RIVENDELL'S ANNALISE SPARROW - KATY BUCKLIN
RESERVE CHAMPION: VALENTINO - LENA STRONG - BUFFY STRONG
3RD DARTESCH - MACIE RITTER
4TH CAPSTONE'S OH HENRY - KEELIN CRAIGE - MOLLYRYAN

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: HUCKS WILD ANNIE - MARY ANN LAFERRIERE
RESERVE CHAMPION - LBALRINE DE L'OCEAN - SHONA SIMPSON
3RD FEMKA - CARA BUCHANAN
4TH KHALEESI - AIMEE KLEMENZ
5TH FABULA HL - CAROLYNNE BARRS
6TH PFZAR HP - MICHELLE CHISHOLM

OPEN

CHAMPION:DEVAREAUX - TISH MASTRIANNI
RESERVE CHAMPION: DUETTE - TISH MASTRIANNI - KELLY WARD
3RD DF CARUSELA BLUE - ASHLEY PERKINS - BRENDA DUET
4TH LIVING THE DREAM - HEATHER MEHAL
5TH QUIT BUCKING - SHELLIE SOMMERSON
6TH LAVANI - EMILY LASHER



Third Level Adult Amateur Champions (L-R) Shona Simpson, Cara Buckanan, Aimee Klemenz, Michelle Chisholm. Photo Credit: High Time Photography

HOY Gala Report - Dressage

FOURTH LEVEL

SPONSORED BY JOSIAH BRYANT DRESSAGE

JR/YR

CHAMPION: VALENTINO - LENA STRONG - BUFFY STRONG

RESERVE CHAMPION: ORANS GOLD FORTUNE - JAYNA LEE - JADYN LEE

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: WELL WELL - KIT CREASY

RESERVE CHAMPION: CARBONERO XCVI - TINA COOK

3RD GRACE KELLY - BONNIE GIBSON

4TH FABULA HL - CAROLYNNE BARRS

5TH DUNRAVEN CODY - ALEXANDRA CHIAROLANZIO

6TH VIGOUREUX - LIZ BROMBERG

OPEN

CHAMPION: SIR SILENCIO - JOSIAH BRYANT - SALLIE LOWE

RESERVE CHAMPION: H. SZOVALJO - ALLISON CINO

3RD FORAY - ELIZA ROMM - BETSY CALLAWAY

4TH KAYMAN - DAWN WENIGER

5TH ELITAENF - DEBORAH MOYNIHAN

6TH BELLISSIMO VOLTO - ELIZABETH MOORE - MELISSA JOHNSON



FEI PRIX ST. GEORGES LEVEL CHAMPIONS (L-R) Amanda Martyn, Steven Hutzler, Jennifer Flowers and Helper. Photo Credit: High Time Photography

HOY Gala Report - Dressage

FEI JUNIOR/YOUNG RIDER

SPONSORED BY JENNIFER FLOWERS DRESSAGE

CHAMPION: ORANS GOLD FORTUNE - JAYNA LEE - JADYN LEE

FEI PRIX ST. GEORGES LEVEL

SPONSORED BY ACM DRESSAGE

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: FILANDER - JESSICA MCCASKILL

RESERVE CHAMPION: DUNRAVEN CODY - ALEXANDRA CHIAROLANZIO

3RD DYNAMIC MF - LESLIE LYTTON

4TH ARISTOTLE - DONNA DAVIS

OPEN

CHAMPION: FYF MOONSHADOW - KRISTINE HAMILTON

RESERVE CHAMPION: LIBERTY LAD - BROOKE DOSS

3RD RAPHAELA - JENNIFER FLOWERS

4TH DEM LUNA - AMANDA MARTYN

5TH DREYYA - STEVEN HUTZLER

6TH EUKALYPTA - LYNN DOKI - DEBORAH HOSMER

FEI INTERMEDIATE

SPONSORED BY BROOKSIDE FARM

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: EUCLADES - LISA CHAN - CINDY PAULES

RESERVE CHAMPION: DYNAMIC MF - LESLIE LYTTON

OPEN

CHAMPION: DANSEUR - BROOKE DOSS

RESERVE CHAMPION: CAFE MOCHA - MARY MESSINGER

3RD EASTPOINTJS - ASHLEY PERKINS - BARBARA BEZPA

FEI INTERMEDIATE II A/B

SPONSORED BY EMME JOHNSTON DRESSAGE

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: DEUCE - JAMIE MCDEVITT

RESERVE CHAMPION: UNIVERSO TPB DA PRATA - NANCY STONE

OPEN

CHAMPION: LISANDRO - TRAYCE DOUBEK



HOY Gala Report - Dressage

GRAND PRIX

SPONSORED BY ELYSIAN EQUINE

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: ZIDANE - BECKY SHEALY

OPEN

CHAMPION: COCO WIN - DONNA KELLY

RESERVE CHAMPION: BELCANTOS WELT - KENI KERIN - LYNN KERIN

MUSICAL FREESTYLE

SPONSORED BY ACM DRESSAGE

JR/YR

CHAMPION: URIEL 2013 - CLAUDIA FOUSHEE

RESERVE CHAMPION: D'ARCY SF - JACQUELINE MOORE

3RD REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE - ELLIE CHISHOLM

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: DARK KNIGHT - LYSA HODGSON

RESERVE CHAMPION: WILFORD HALL - BRI GINDLESPERGER

3RD CARBONERO XCVI - TINA COOK

4TH KYNYNMONT GUNSMOKE'S GIDEON - KATHRYN WILLIAMS

5TH DEVAREAUX - NANCY OGLESBY - TISH MASTRIANNI

6TH BRISTOLL SF - MICHELLE MARTIN

OPEN

CHAMPION: QADENCE - EMME JOHNSTON

RESERVE CHAMPION: LNZ'S FANCY TRUSS - COURTNEY BAUER

3RD PICASSO - ANDREA GUMRICH

4TH LIVING THE DREAM - HEATHER MEHAL

5TH ELITA ENF - DEBORAH MOYNIHAN

6TH VIVA LAS VEGAS - ALI LATORRE



JR/YR Musical Freestyle Champions: (L-R) Ellie Chisholm, Jacqueline Moore, Claudia Foushee
Photo Credit: High Time Photography



Open Musical Freestyle Champions:
Emme Johnson, Courtney Bauer and Ali Latorre
Photo Credit: High Time Photography

HOY Gala Report - Breeders

FOALS AND YEARLINGS

SPONSORED BY MP SPORTHORSES

CHAMPION: VITA FIAMMA - CAROLINE COX

RESERVE CHAMPION: R GRAND TOTIL - DANIELLE SINTONI

3RD SYMPHONY MP - MEL HARPER

4TH SOUTHERN BELLE MP - MEL HARPER

5TH ROOSEWELT - ANGELA MIRARCHI

6TH GWS CHICAGO - AMY BRUMBACH

TWO & THREE YEAR OLDS

SPONSORED BY TURTLES TABLE

CHAMPION: POSEIDON - DANIELLE SINTONI

RESERVE CHAMPION: OVECHKIN R - EMILY LOGAN

3RD ROYSE - JILL STARCEVICH

4TH DRESSCODE DANCING DATE - ELLEN ZIEMER

FOUR YEAR AND OLDER BREEDSTOCK MARES

SPONSORED BY JOVEE FARM

CHAMPION: PRINCI - ANGELA MIRARCHI

FOUR YEAR AND OLDER STALLIONS

SPONSORED BY GAITWAY STABLES

CHAMPION: BOY LENA 050 - LISA GERDON

FOUR YEAR AND OLDER MATERIALE

CHAMPION: FIDALERIA - CODY PIERCE - SANDIE GAINES-BEDDARD

HIGH POINT BREEDER

ANGELA MIRARCHI

Congratulations to
NCDCTA High Point Breeder of the Year
Angela Mirarchi standing with Turtle.
Photo Credit: High Time Photography



HOY Gala Report - Western Dressage



Western Dressage Division Champions: L to R

Robin Bruckmann, Shannon Hoffman, Janet Holland, Brandon Salmons, Izzy Phillips, Heather Boyer, Cricket Gentry.

WESTERN DRESSAGE INTRODUCTORY LEVEL

SPONSORED BY FROG POND FARM

JR/YR

CHAMPION: DOWN HOME BLUES - IZZY PHILLIPS - KRISTYN HOOPER

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: BLAME IT ON THE WHISKEY- JESSICA LEE

RESERVE CHAMPION: WHEEL KAT DOC - KATHY CUTSHAW

OPEN

CHAMPION: BLUE BONNY LASS - ROXANNE LANE

HONORABLE MENTION: QUEEN OF THE SAVANNA - SHANNON HOFFMAN

WESTERN DRESSAGE BASIC LEVEL

SPONSORED BY JENNIFER FLOWERS DRESSAGE

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: TUXEDO - KIM JOSEY

RESERVE CHAMPION: ROCKIN ON KEEPER - JANET HOLLAND

3RD LF GOOD AS GOLD - VICKY PASTERIS

4TH SHANGHEIRCW - CHRISTINA BOUCHER REYNOLDS

HOY Gala Report - Western Dressage

WESTERN DRESSAGE LEVEL ONE

SPONSORED BY BALANCED EQUESTRIAN AND PAM SESSOMS

OPEN

CHAMPION: AMELIA EARHART - BRANDON SALMONS - PAM SESSOMS

WESTERN DRESSAGE LEVEL

TWO SPONSORED BY M&M TACK SHOP

OPEN

CHAMPION: BRIELLE VT - HEATHER BOYER

RESERVE CHAMPION: BKL NORSTAR - VALERIE EAKLEY

WESTERN DRESSAGE LEVEL THREE

OPEN

CHAMPION: BKL NORSTAR - VALERIE EAKLEY

WESTERN DRESSAGE LEVEL FIVE


SPONSORED BY BROOKSIDE FARM

ADULT AMATEUR

CHAMPION: NEVER BETTER MAGIC - CRICKET GENTRY

OPEN

CHAMPION: SIRREE'ANNA - ROBIN BRUECKMANN

A decorative border made of green floral and leaf patterns, framing the central text.

Reminder to get your NCDCTA 2022 HOY Awards!

You can use the form link below to have them shipped to you!

<https://www.ncdcta.org/hoy-award-shipping-form>

or visit:

M&M Tack Shop, 615 Germantown Road, Raleigh, NC
and do some shopping!

EVENTING GRANT REPORT

By: Savannah Norman

We've all had the shows that we feel like we're on top of the world. First place, all-time low dressage scores, and flawless jump rounds. Then we have the shows that are learning experiences. Dressage scores are high, ribbons are non-existent, and you become the horse and rider that people are told to stay away from in the warm up. For me, the August War Horse series was my learning experience. It was a learning experience, however, that I learned a lot from. You don't get good by riding flawlessly - you get good by having really, horribly bad days and riding those.



Savannah Norman on her own Mufasa competing Cross Country at the 2022 August War Horse Series. Photo by: Amy Norman

Mufasa was a handful during schooling. Through either some past trauma or behavioral issue, he became spooky/bolty at other horses. This behavior's always been there, but he decided it was going to be really bad during the schooling. Through some really hard work and a great trainer, I eventually schooled the Beginner Novice course with no problems. I learned how to control him and be the thing that's on his mind. That's something really important to learn if you're going to ride a spooky horse.

The show wasn't great. We stayed out of the dressage warm up, and he spooked at another horse in another arena during a test, which then created some tension and overall, our worst ever score. The show jumping went well, as Maiden height isn't a problem for either of us. The cross country was fantastic.

All-in-all, our overall score wasn't great. But that's the hardest I've ever ridden at a show and the most accomplished I've felt coming out of the finish flags. Taking a horse from almost unrideable to a full Maiden horse trial was a feat in itself.

I'm grateful for the NCDCTA funding both my good days and my bad.

Savannah Norman on her own Mufasa competing at the 2022 August War Horse Series. Photo by: Amy Norman





NCDCTA

NCDCTA Dressage Sport Horse Breeders HOY

Good Morning!

My name is Amy Brumbach and I am the Dressage Education Co-Chair for NCDCTA. There has been great interest in NCDCTA developing a Horse of the Year program for breeders and owners that show in DSHB shows. I am happy to announce that the NCDCTA Board of Directors approved the DSHB Horse of the Year Program. Please take the time to read the full award program (click button below), but here are some highlights.

Award Categories

- DSHB Foals and Yearlings
- DSHB 2 and 3 Year olds
- DSHB 4 year old & older Broodmares
- DSHB 4 year old & older Stallions
- DSHB 3 Year old Materiale
- DSHB 4 Year old & Older Materiale

Requirements

- Owner and Rider (materiale) must be active NCDCTA members (as of Sept 30th, 2022)
- Horse must have a current registration with NCDCTA (as of Sept 30, 2022)
- Minimum of 3 scores at 3 different shows under 3 different judges
- Minimum score of 65%
- Top three scores will be averaged to get the final overall score.

High Point Breeder Award *(This program will be retroactive for 2022)*

- Breeders must be active NCDCTA members (as of Sept 30th, 2022)
- A minimum of 2 horses must be in breeders NCDCTA portfolio (horses/owners must be registered with NCDCTA)
- Top 2-4 horses final scores will be averaged to receive final score
- High Point Breeder Award will be awarded to breeder with the highest average

Thank you!

Amy Brumbach

GaitWay Stables

NCDCTA Dressage Education Co-Chair

919-621-0440

www.gaitwaystables.com

Link for rules and more information.

<https://www.ncdcta.org/breeders-hoy>

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS: NCDCTA is following governmental, USEF, and USDF guidelines and precautions.

NCDCTA – 2022 Year End Statistics

Total Membership 2022 = 716 (2021 = 668)

- Junior/Young Rider = 127 (18%)
- Adult Amateur = 433 (60%)
- Open/Pro = 156 (22%)

Registered Horses 2022 = 475 (2021 = 481)



Membership Breakdown

- 184 (26%) New Members
- 420 (59%) Returning Members
- 112 (16%) Reactivated Members (lapsed for 1 year or more)
- -----
- 111 (16%) Junior Individual Membership
- 576 (80%) Senior Individual Membership
- 28 (4%) Family Membership
- -----
- 418 (58%) Primary Interest - Dressage Only
- 226 (32%) Primary Interest - Dressage & Eventing
- 72 (10%) Primary Interest – Western Dressage
- 56 (8%) Primary Interest – Eventing Only
- 33 (5%) Primary Interest – Breeding
- -----
- 684 (96%) Female
- 31 (4%) Male
- -----
- 665 (93%) reside in North Carolina
- 25 (3%) reside in South Carolina
- 14 (2%) reside in Virginia
- The remaining 2% reside in Alabama, Alaska, California, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Ohio.

Competition Recognition & Awards

NCDCTA recognized 176 competitions in 2022

- **61** Nationally Recognized (USEF/USDF/USEA)
- **115** Schooling Competitions
- There were over **19,000** entries at NCDCTA-recognized competitions in 2022
- **510** Horse/Rider teams competed in NCDCTA's Horse of the Year (HOY) Program
- NCDCTA will award more than **220** ribbons in the disciplines of Dressage, Western Dressage, Eventing and Sport Horse Breeding.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! NCDCTA CHAMPIONSHIPS



Capital Dressage Classic

June 3 & 4, 2023

Hunt Horse Complex - 4601 Trinity Road, Raleigh, NC

Opening Date: April 20, 2023

Closing/Received by Date: May 24, 2023

Jr/YR Scholarship Application Due: April 20, 2023



NCDCTA Labor of Love 1 & 2

Breed Division in both shows

September 2 & 3, 2023

Hunt Horse Complex - 4601 Trinity Road, Raleigh, NC

Opening Date: July 23, 2023

Closing/Received by Date: August 22, 2023

Jr/YR Scholarship Application Due: July 23, 2023



Harvest Moon

September 16-17, 2023

Opening Date July 15, 2023

Closing/Received by Date: September 5, 2023

Carolina Horse Park - 2814 Montrose Rd, Raeford, NC

Jr/YR Scholarship Application Due: TBD



Autumn Leaves Dressage &

NCDCTA Dressage Championship

November 3-5, 2023

Carolina Horse Park - 2814 Montrose Rd, Raeford, NC

Opening Date September 15, 2023

Closing/Received by Date: October 23, 2023

Jr/YR Scholarship Application Due: TBD

Autumn Leaves Qualifying Dates: 12/1/22 - 10/22/23.

"Eligibility for both the Dressage and Eventing Championships requires at least one HOY point to be earned by the horse/rider pair in the division(s) they wish to participate in the Championships during the qualifying period of the Championship."

Any questions about your eligibility to ride in the NCDCTA Dressage Championships should be directed to the Membership Secretary: Membership@NCDCTA.org

MY TRIP TO THE AEC CHAMPIONSHIPS

By: Willow Chase

Earlier this year in September, my horse and I took a total of three weeks to drive out to Montana to compete at the American Eventing Championships (AECs). Diablo, aka Potato, is a 16 year old Andalusian Crossbreed who is an absolutely fantastic horse that I've had the pleasure of bringing along in the eventing world and owning for the last two, almost three years. When I first met Diablo, I knew he was going to be something great. Even if he had never jumped prior to 2020 or if all we had was an oversized western saddle and a pieced together bridle.

When I came to the conclusion that we were definitely going to be trying to fully qualify for AEC's, I was shocked to see that it would be taking place in Montana at the absolutely beautiful Rebecca Farms. Now, some people would simply not even consider the trip especially when next year the event will be held in Kentucky, which is a much more reasonable distance to travel. But, those who know me know that I never shy away from a challenge or something that seems impossible. So, with that mindset the preparations for Montana began!

Two months prior to leaving, Diablo and I were working hard at home and getting lots of lessons from two of my fantastic trainers, Andrew McConnon and Anne DeKeyser. Both of these trainers are incredible and I learn so much from them with each lesson! The final month prior to MT, Diablo and I got the awesome opportunity to be a working student for Will Faudree for the month of August. We had SO much fun and learned so much there. That was definitely a crucially important phase in our preparation that allowed us to be ready to tackle the trip and show at Montana.

It took us one week to get to Kalispell, MT. Diablo handled the trip super well. We traveled 10 hours each day and had layovers each night, rising the next morning at 4:00 AM to start the next haul. The whole time we were at Rebecca Farms was absolutely magical. Diablo was all class and we were both at the top of our game.

Continued...



The emotions were SO high after all of it was done and final. This picture was taken after I had just gotten back from my Top Three Placing Interview with USEA.

All of it was a dream come true.
Photo Credit: Kim Krivit



This beautiful photo is of my dad, Robert Chase, who is proudly wearing his show dad shirt. There is not one show he is at not wearing that shirt, it is basically good luck at this point.

Photo Credit: Kim Krivit



Not only was the competition part of this huge trip amazing, but the hospitality of Rebecca Farms was top tier. Every evening was dinner with music outside in the beautiful weather. Pictured here is my mom (Kim Krivit), dad (Robert Chase) and, me- all dressed up before one of the evening gatherings. Behind us is the Flat Head River.

Photo Credit: Willow Chase

MY TRIP TO THE AEC CHAMPIONSHIPS

On day one, Diablo put in an effortless test earning us a 29% to be in 4th place out of 27 riders. The cross country course was meticulously designed and had lots of questions allowing it to be a proper and tough championship course. Diablo tackled everything like a pro coming within the optimum time allowing us to move up to third place. The final day was stadium jumping. The stadium course was also fantastically designed. We had a stupendous, clear round creating a shake up for the top three riders allowing us to finish off in 2nd place getting Reserve Champion for the Novice Junior Rider Division.

Taking that victory gallop with my heart horse and a big ribbon wrapped around his neck that he deserved more than anything was nothing short of emotional. I was in tears of joy. Diablo and I have worked so hard to reach all of our achievements not just this past year but in general. He just always tries his absolute hardest for me. Our Montana trip took so much work to bring together. I cannot thank my parents enough for the efforts to make this trip possible! Diablo and I are currently preparing for our first Training at the October War Horse and we are both feeling more than ready!

Cheers to great success and hard work!



The beautiful photo capturing Diablo and my success after jumping a foot perfect stadium round with some show officials. Diablo was posing looking so handsome in his well deserved sashay of ribbons. I am convinced he knew what we had both done that day. Photo Credit: Ride On Video

This photo captures Diablo and myself in our matching gear as we head off to cross country warm up! I knew it was a tough course but Diablo and I could not have been any more prepared. My nerves were high this day, but the adrenaline was higher. Photo Credit: Kim Krivit





2023 HORSE OF THE YEAR RULES

(HOY) Effective 12/1/2022

The North Carolina Dressage & Combined Training Association offers the following awards as part of the Horse of the Year (HOY) program. To see 2023 HOY rules on our website visit: <https://www.ncdcta.org/horse-of-the-year>

Eventing

	USEF/USEA Recognized Horse Trials	NCDCTA Recognized Horse Trials	NCDCTA Recognized Combined Test
Green as Grass		Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open
Starter		Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open
Beginner Novice	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open
Novice	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open
Training	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open
Modified	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open
Preliminary & Above	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open

Dressage

	USEF/USDF Recognized	NCDCTA Recognized
USDF Introductory Level	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open
USDF Training Level	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open
USDF First Level	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open
USDF Second Level	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open
USDF Third Level	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open
USDF Fourth Level	Jr/YR, AA, Open	Jr/YR, AA, Open
FEI Junior/Young Rider	Jr/YR	
FEI Prix St. Georges	AA, Open	
FEI Intermediate I	AA, Open	
FEI Intermediate II/A/B	AA, Open	
FEI Grand Prix	AA, Open	
USDF/FEI Musical Freestyle	Jr/YR, AA, Open	
USDF Musical Freestyle		Jr/YR, AA, Open

Western Dressage

WDAA Introductory Level	Jr/YR, AA, Open
WDAA Basic Level	Jr/YR, AA, Open
WDAA Level 1	Jr/YR, AA, Open
WDAA Level 2	Jr/YR, AA, Open
WDAA Level 3	Jr/YR, AA, Open
WDAA Level 4	Jr/YR, AA, Open
WDAA Level 5	Jr/YR, AA, Open

Continued...

2023 HORSE OF THE YEAR RULES

General Guidelines & Requirements

- Competition/Membership year runs from December 1 through November 30, annually.
- All memberships/registrations are for one year only and end on November 30, regardless of the date membership was purchased.
- Rider must be an active member of NCDCTA at the time points are earned
- Owner/Lessee (if other than rider) must be an active member of NCDCTA at the time points are earned
- Horse must be registered with NCDCTA for the competition year at the time points are earned
- Horses registered by January 31 (with active NCDCTA membership) will be awarded points from the beginning of the competition year. Horses registered after January 31 (with an active NCDCTA membership) will accumulate points from the date of receipt.
- All NCDCTA HOY points must be earned at NCDCTA-recognized competitions and events. Exceptions:
 - Out-of-state Eventing results for USEA/USEF/FEI recognized events (horse trials only)
 - Out-of-state Dressage CHAMPIONSHIP results (e.g., Regional, National & CBLM championships)
 - Out-of-state results must be reported within 10 days from the end of competition
 - Out-of-state results earned after November 1 must be reported within 3 days of the end of competition
 - Report out-of-state results online at NCDCTA.org
- First place HOY winners are ineligible to win the same division for the following three consecutive years. Exceptions:
 - FEI Grand Prix Dressage
 - Musical Freestyle Dressage
 - Junior/Young Rider FEI Dressage
 - Preliminary and Above Eventing
 - Level 5 Western Dressage
 - If horse ownership/lease has changed
- Rider status (Junior/Young Rider, Adult Amateur, Open) determines the division in which points are accrued. Rider status must be stated as part of the membership application. A change in status must be sent directly to the membership secretary in writing. Points will accrue in the new division from that date forward. If a status correction is necessary for any reason, all points earned will be placed into the corrected division. Status Corrections must be approved by the HOY Committee.
- Junior/Young Riders are members who are 21 years of age or younger as of December 1 of the award year. Junior/Young Rider birthday must be stated as part of the membership application.
- Points will be posted periodically throughout the competition year on the NCDCTA website (NCDCTA.org).
- Awards and Prizes will be awarded at the annual Horse of the Year (HOY) banquet.
 - Ribbons: 1 through 6 in each division
 - Prizes: 1 through 3 in each division
- Verification and Accuracy: It is the competitor's responsibility to verify the accuracy of their points by checking the NCDCTA website throughout the year
- Submission of results is the sole responsibility of the competition manager. Failure to submit completed results or any infractions of the guidelines may result in recognition denial for current or future competitions. NCDCTA offers no warranties or guarantees as to the quality of competition or suitability of venues at recognized schooling shows, and reserves the right to deny recognition to competitions the executive board deems sub-standard, for policy infractions such as late results, or for any reasons forthwith. Any questions regarding points should be directed to the NCDCTA Membership Secretary.
- Minimum Test Requirements – Dressage:
 - Introductory through First Level – 60%
 - Second Level through Fourth Level – 58%
 - FEI Levels – 55%
 - Musical Freestyle – 55%
- Minimum Test Requirements – Western Dressage
 - Intro, Basic and Level 1 – 60%
 - Level 2 through Level 5 – 58%
 - Freestyle – 55%
- Maximum Requirements – Eventing
 - Green as Grass and Starter (formerly Maiden) – 50 penalty points
 - Beginner Novice through Modified – 55 penalty points
 - Preliminary and above – 65 penalty points
- Team is one rider and one horse
- Dressage, Western Dressage & Eventing competitions within North Carolina must seek NCDCTA recognition to participate
- Dressage & Western Dressage competitions and Eventing schooling competitions outside NC must seek NCDCTA recognition
- Competition organizers seeking recognition must be NCDCTA members
- USEF/USEA CT results are not accepted
- Virtual Tests are not accepted
- Out-of-State Eventing Horse Trial results accepted via the online form within 10 days of competition
- Out-of-State Dressage Championship (only) results accepted via online form within 10 days of competition

Continued...

2023 HORSE OF THE YEAR RULES

NCDCTA HOY Awards Tracks

NCDCTA is a USDF General Membership Organization, and as such, our primary purpose is to assist our members in competing in USDF/USEF/USEA recognized competitions. NCDCTA supports and recognizes schooling competitions as a means of preparing members to compete at recognized competitions.

1. Competitors may only win one award per Level. Competitors may not win both Recognized and Schooling track at the same level.
2. The Recognized Track will always supersede the Schooling Track, regardless of placement.
 - a. Example 1: If a competitor meets the minimum requirements at Training Level in both tracks and places 2nd in schooling and 5th in recognized, the 5th place recognized will be awarded and no award will be given in the schooling track.
 - b. Example 2: If a competitor meets the minimum requirements at Training Level in the Schooling Track and ranks 2nd, and does not meet the minimum requirements in the Recognized Track, no award will be given in the Recognized Track and 2nd place will be awarded in the schooling track.

Two-Track Dressage Awards

DRESSAGE	USEF- / USDF-Recognized	NCDCTA-Recognized Schooling
Dressage Levels Recognized	USDF Introductory, USDF Training, USDF First, USDF Second, USDF Third, USDF Fourth, FEI Junior/Young Rider, FEI Prix St Georges, FEI Intermediate I, FEI Intermediate II/A/B, FEI Grand Prix, Musical Freestyle or Equivalent Tests	USDF Introductory, USDF Training, USDF First, USDF Second, USDF Third, USDF Fourth or Equivalent Tests
Maximum number of levels awarded per team	2 Excluding Musical Freestyle	2 Excluding Musical Freestyle
Levels awarded	2 highest	2 highest
Minimum number of competitions	3	3
Minimum number of Judges	3	3
Minimum number of tests	7	7
Rolling Average	Top 7 Tests	Top 7 Tests
Awards	Ribbons 1 - 6 Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, Open	Ribbons 1 - 6 Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, Open
Prizes	1 - 3 Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, Open	1 - 3 Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, Open
Division Champion	Horse/Rider Team that has won a division is not eligible to win that division again. Exceptions are FEI Junior/Young Rider, FEI Grand Prix and Musical Freestyle	Horse/Rider Team that has won a division is not eligible to win that division again

Continued...

2023 HORSE OF THE YEAR RULES

One-Track Western Dressage Awards

Western Dressage	NCDCTA-Recognized
Western Dressage Levels Recognized	Western Dressage Basic, Intro, Levels 1 through 5, and Freestyle
Maximum number of levels awarded per team	2 Excluding Musical Freestyle
Levels awarded	2 highest
Minimum number of competitions	3
Minimum number of Judges	3
Minimum number of tests	7 2 from highest level of division
Rolling Average	Top 7 Tests
Awards	Ribbons 1 - 6 Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, Open 1 - 3
Prizes	Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, Open
Division Champion	Horse/Rider Team that has won a division is not eligible to win that division again. Exception is Western Dressage Level 5 and Freestyle



Three Track Eventing Awards

- Competitors may only win one award per Level. Competitors may not win both USEF/USEA and NCDCTA track at the same level.

- The USEF/USEA Track will always supersede the NCDCTA Track, regardless of placement.

- Example 1: If a competitor meets the maximum requirements at Training Level in both tracks and places 2nd in NCDCTA and 5th in USEF/USEA, the 5th place USEF/USEA will be awarded and no award will be given in the NCDCTA track.
- Example 2: If a competitor meets the maximum requirements at Beginner Novice in the NCDCTA Track and ranks 2nd, and does not meet the maximum requirements in the USEF/USEA Track, no award will be given in the USEF/USEA Track and 2nd place will be awarded in the NCDCTA track.

NCDCTA-Recognized Combined Tests will be awarded separately. A competitor may receive an award at both the NCDCTA-Recognized HT Track and the NCDCTA-Recognized CT Track at the same level.

EVENTING	USEF/USEA Recognized HT	NCDCTA-Recognized HT	NCDCTA-Recognized Combined Test
Eventing Levels Recognized	Beginner Novice, Novice, Training, Modified, Preliminary and Above	Green as Grass, Starter, Beginner Novice, Novice, Training, Modified, Preliminary and Above	Green as Grass, Starter, Beginner Novice, Novice, Training, Modified, Preliminary and above
Maximum number of levels awarded per team	2	2	2
Levels awarded	2 highest	2 highest	2 highest
Minimum number of venues	2	2	2
Minimum number of tests	3	3	3
Rolling Average	Top 3 rides	Top 3 rides	Top 3 rides
Awards	Ribbons 1 - 6 Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, Open 1 - 3	Ribbons 1 - 6 Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, Open 1 - 3	Ribbons 1 - 6 Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, Open 1 - 3
Prizes	Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, Open	Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, Open	Jr/YR, Adult Amateur, Open
Division Champion	Horse/Rider Team that has won a division is not eligible to win that division again. Exception is Preliminary and Above.	Horse/Rider Team that has won a division is not eligible to win that division again. Exception is Preliminary and Above.	Horse/Rider Team that has won a division is not eligible to win that division again. Exception is Preliminary and Above.



Horse of the Year (HOY) Effective 12/1/2022

The North Carolina Dressage & Combined Training Association offers the following awards as part of the Horse of the Year (HOY) program. To see 2023 HOY rules on our website visit: <https://www.ncdcta.org/horse-of-the-year>



2023 Kick-Off Virtual Dressage Show

To Benefit:  ^{THE} DRESSAGE FOUNDATION March 1-March 15, 2023

Overview

TDF 2020 Grant Recipients, Ali Perkins and Emma Smith, invite you to send in a video of your dressage tests. Tests will be judged and scored by 2019 TDF Grant Recipient/ "r" judge, Alexis Martin-Vegue. Ribbons and test sheets will be mailed out to contestants. We encourage you to use this show as a check-in towards your 2021 goals in the comfort of your own arena. Full proceeds from this show will be given to [The Dressage Foundation](#).

Classes:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Intro Level Test of Choice | 5. Third Level Test of Choice |
| 2. Training Level Test of Choice | 6. Fourth Level Test of Choice |
| 3. First Level Test of Choice | 7. FEI Test of Choice |
| 4. Second Level test of Choice | 8. Western Test of Choice |

Specifications

To sign up, fill out the attached [Google Form](#). Upload a YouTube link of your test to the Form. Film tests as close and steady to the horse and rider as possible. Feel free to zoom in as needed. Tests must be ridden in a measured arena with accurate letters. Tests can be read to riders. Turnout is informal. See Google Form for payment instructions. Tests will not be judged until payment is sent. Cost per test is \$50. All entries due by March 15th.

Contact Ali LaTorre for more information: Aliperkinsdressage@gmail.com

More Opportunities from the:



Dressage Clinic with Jeremy Steinberg

Location: Felicity Farm in Hillsborough, NC

Date: April 1-2

For info contact Ali LaTorre (aliperkinsdressage@gmail.com)

Jeremy is an accomplished FEI High Performance rider, trainer, and instructor and former USEF Youth Dressage Coach who lives and works out of Aiken, SC. Jeremy is a highly sought after clinician and instructor who offers clinics throughout the year for all ages, levels and stages of training. Rider spots and auditing available.

**** This is not a NCDCTA sponsored event****



Ali LaTorre riding with Jeremy in 2019. Photo by Tonya LaTorre

Upcoming Grant Application Deadlines from The Dressage Foundation

<https://www.dressagefoundation.org/>

March 1 - Evie Tumlin Fund for Region 9 Adult Amateurs

March 1 - Lloyd Landkamer Fund for Show Management

March 1 - Veronica Holt Fund for Dressage Technical Delegates

For more information on grants check out www.dressagefoundation.org



- **What is the difference between TDF and USDF?**
- While both organizations were established by Nebraska native, Lowell Boomer, there are fundamental differences between the two. The United States Dressage Federation was formed in 1973 apart from the American Horse Show Association (now known as USEF) to give the discipline of dressage more attention it needed to flourish in the States. USDF became the governing body for the sport, developing the standards and providing the educational information for judges, instructors and riders. From the first meeting in November of 1973 in Lincoln, NE, USDF continues to educate dressage enthusiasts, promote the sport and recognize achievements. The USDF offices are located in Lexington, Kentucky. Visit www.usdf.org for more information.
- The Dressage Foundation, a non-profit tax-exempt corporation, was established in 1989 by Lowell to provide financial support to the sport of dressage. TDF provides funding to USDF, its Group Member Organizations (GMOs), other non-profit organizations and to individuals for dressage-related education. These grants are possible because of tax-deductible contributions made by donors and through earnings on funds and reserves. Unlike USDF, we have no paying members - TDF can only give away what generous donors give to us. Since its beginning, TDF has awarded millions of dollars in grants to improve dressage in the United States.
- **How can I contribute to TDF?**
- TDF has no dues-paying members and depends solely on support from charitable contributions and earnings from investment reserves. These financial contributions can come in all sizes, even the smallest donation helps! Visit our Support page to make a financial contribution.
- Another way you can contribute to TDF is by promoting the organization through your local Group Member Organization (GMO) or dressage club. Spread the word by writing an article, hosting a fundraiser, distributing brochures or holding a TDF Benefit Class at your next show! If you have a creative idea, let us know how we can help!
- **How do I know which grant is right for me?**
- TDF awards grants to all sorts of dressage enthusiasts; young riders, amateurs, judges, instructors, GMOs/clubs, breeders, high performance riders, and more. You can refer to our Index of Grants page, found under "Grants and Programs," which categorizes our grants in an easy to understand chart. Each program has its own webpage that states the requirements to apply.
- **When is my grant application due?**
- Receiving a grant from TDF is dependent on receiving your application on time! Don't miss the due dates; check out our Grant Deadline Calendar page and click on the link "Add To My Calendar!" Each application should also state the deadline.

The TEAM Program

By: Alexa Clegg

The Dressage4Kids TEAM clinic at Highclere Farms was incredibly well-organized, thanks to hosts Nicole Hamilton and Ali Perkins-Latorre, and I am so grateful to have been able not only to ride with Lendon as we worked through elements of the Intermediare 1 test, but also to have watched her teach all of the other riders! The clinic participants and auditors enjoyed lectures by Emme Johnston, a local FEI trainer who talked about how she produces her own musical freestyles, Nicole Hamilton, who is a certified horse chiropractic, and Janine Malone, who presented to us many of the recent federation rule revisions and new things about the 2023 USDF tests. The D4K riders had the opportunity to learn about the importance of rider fitness and core strength with Ali on Saturday morning, and I know that everyone also enjoyed the wonderful catered lunches organized by some of the parents, as well as the pizza dinner presented by the NCDCTA on Friday evening during Lendon's opening remarks.

This clinic was also very special to me as I was able to bring along a younger member of my home barn, Payden McLaughlin, to her first D4K clinic. Both Payden and I have grown up riding at a United States Pony Club Riding Center, Hidden K Stables, which is located just outside of Winston Salem, NC, and we loved Lendon's expectations about proper stable management and even her tests on the different parts of the training pyramid, horse skeleton, and the ligaments and tendons in the lower legs. Knowledge of these systems is so important as we develop into higher level riders in order to promote the longevity and soundness of our equine athletes. Thank you, Lendon and Dressage4Kids, for a great weekend!

For more information on TEAM look here:

<https://dressage4kids.org/programs/team-program.html>



In the clinic photos are: Helen Ingersoll, Lendon Gray, Elena Chisholm, Claudia Foushee, Cheyenne Gilley, Charlotte Turner, Sarah Buehren, Abbey Schneider, Kinsley Dishong, Sydney Langley, Maya Dardess, Payden McLaughlin, Ellie Balakrishnan, Samantha Gollan, Lea Dardess.
Photos Credits: Ali LaTorre

AN AMAZING YEAR: FROM TOO SCARED TO TROT TO COMPETING AT THE US DRESSAGE FINALS

By: Lysa Hodgson

Maybe I'm just superstitious, but I find my show seasons follow a specific pattern: Things go mostly according to plan during even-numbered years, while odd-numbered years are full of "opportunities" for learning and growth. For example, in 2016, I finally earned an invitation to the US Dressage Finals! We finished in last place in the Training Level Adult Amateur Championship class, but last place at Finals is still pretty darn good! However, in 2017 that same horse suffered a suspensory injury from which he never returned to soundness despite many attempts at therapies, rest, and rehab.

The years from 2018-2021 were spent in a similar pattern with a different horse. In 2018, we ribboned at Regional Championships. And in 2020, we earned Champion and Reserve Champion titles at the Colonel Bengt Ljungquist Memorial (CBLM) Championships. Unfortunately, we spent 2019 and 2021 bouncing between NC State Vet School and Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital after a few too many "exuberant outbursts" left me knowing that something wasn't right with my gelding.

Those exuberant outbursts were most likely a pain response to one of the many issues we found in my sweet gelding. After each bone scan, CT, myelogram, surgery, spinal tap, scope, radiograph, injection, and test after test, we would be convinced that we found the root of the problem only to have another one pop up shortly afterwards. My confidence also took a serious hit during those years due to the unpredictable nature of his episodes. I went from being a timid adult amateur who was at least willing to try a new movement or showing in a new scary location, to someone who could barely trot without panicking, even while wearing an air-vest. And forget about cantering, that was a paralyzing thought because that's when most of his outbursts occurred. I had been riding for 40+ years at that point with plenty of riding mishaps along the way, but this was a totally different ball game. I had only come off of this particular horse once in the five years I'd owned him, and it was more of a slide-to-the-side type dismount not a launch, but he'd become so unpredictable that I just didn't trust him when I was in the saddle. Eventually my trainer said she wouldn't get on him anymore for her own safety. And then his next medical mystery popped up. At that point I knew it was time for him to retire, even though it felt like I was giving up on him. Luckily, he's now my donkey supervisor and the social director at the farm, and he's flourishing in those roles.

In September 2021, I found myself in the position of having two unsound retired horses and two miniature donkeys at the farm. COVID was taking a serious toll on the hospital where I worked, leaving us all exhausted. My husband had recently retired from the Army after 26 years of service, which was both exciting and scary. It felt like a lot of big changes in my little world. At that point I didn't even want to ride anymore because I had become so fearful. I didn't have a horse in my barn to ride anyway, so I thought about quitting altogether. It would certainly be easier and cheaper. But, I knew if I quit I would never go back and I would regret it for the rest of my life.

I reluctantly started my search for a new horse. My wonderful trainer, Heather Mehal, wouldn't even let me sit on most of the prospects we went to see because they were clearly a mismatch, despite seeing many videos and receiving assurances of appropriateness before our visits. Not to mention all the lame horses we saw, in poor body condition, who were listed for outrageous sums.

We had one last horse to see before I gave up, and I ALMOST cancelled the appointment after a very disheartening search the weekend before. Heather made me keep it since the horse was at least located in NC. He was being advertised as a First Level horse who was good on trails, 16h, 12 y.o. Hanoverian gelding with a temperament of 2 out of 10. He checked all the boxes and the video looked appropriate, but we'd been down this road before so I didn't have a lot hope.

Continued...

We arrived at Julia Dearborn's fabulous Endeavor Farm in Oxford, NC to find a small black gelding grazing on the front lawn surrounded by a dozen or so dogs who were lazily wandering about. Julia rode the horse first and then Heather. He looked like he might be a good fit from my perspective on the ground. He wasn't spooky. He was forward enough, although a little on the lazy side, but definitely not scary which was my main concern. He didn't have big intimidating gaits, but he had a nice walk. And he wasn't flashy looking, but he was quite cute with a nice ring presence. When Heather finished riding him, she told me this was "The One."

I timidly, but with hope, climbed aboard. And....I could barely get him to walk. I looked at Heather like she was crazy. This was definitely NOT "The One." Both Julia and Heather encouraged me to keep trying and we finally started walking, looking a bit like a drunken sailor. But when it was time to trot, I couldn't get him to budge at all. Not even a little. I had just watched him go with two trainers and he looked great. What was wrong with me??? At that point I became terrified and unwilling to press the issue, especially without my air-vest. I could feel the tears welling up in my eyes, both from the embarrassment and the fear. It was a terrible feeling. After MUCH encouragement from both trainers, I tried to pull myself together. We finally started doing something resembling a shuffle. It wasn't pretty, but he was clearly a good guy who was just trying to figure out what I wanted. I tried to relax a bit and he started to move a little more forward with less effort on my part. And then something crazy happened: I asked for canter. I don't even know why I asked, but there I was, cantering a strange horse, in a strange ring, with strangers and dogs watching! Julia just said, "I knew you'd canter him! Good job!"

I still wasn't sure if I should buy him. You really shouldn't buy a horse just because you actually cantered it during the test ride. I knew I wanted to get back in the show ring, so I looked up this horse's USDF record and there was a huge gap. He had only competed at 4 shows in his entire life, with the most recent being SIX years ago and then his record just stopped. I always assume injuries or behavioral/training/showing issues, so it raised a red flag for me. In the end, I decided to take the chance. If he could help me get back to riding, rebuild some confidence, and help grow my skills, then that would earn him a home with me for life, regardless of his ability to compete or tolerance of competition life.

After passing a pre-purchase exam, he was mine. His barn name became Deacon. And once again I was terrified. I had no relationship with this horse. I struggled with the most mundane riding tasks. Some days he wouldn't move, just like during my initial test ride on him. He just sat there like, "I have no idea what you want, lady." But, on a positive note, he wasn't over-reactive to anything either and we had some good confidence-building experiences, too. In fact, a herd of deer jumped into the arena during my lesson and went trotting through the ring. No reaction from Deacon, just a little acknowledgement like he was saying, "Hey George! The family's looking good. See you in the far pasture tonight!" And he didn't seem to notice the live artillery training at Ft. Bragg or the machine gun fire at Camp Mackall just a few miles away. So we just kept at it, day after day, building a solid foundation.

Continued...



Lysa Hodgson and Deacon competing in a First Level Musical Freestyle class at Made in the Shade.
Photo Credit: Terry Hodgson

In April 2022, we took him to a schooling show. There were no meltdowns, at least not from Deacon. I was a little panicked and I wasn't even the one riding him!

Next, we took him to a recognized show where he was well-behaved all weekend and scored well at Training Level with me in the saddle. We started hitting our groove and building our relationship. We had good shows and not-so-good shows, but he always went to work for me. I still struggled with my confidence, but he was depositing a lot of goodwill in the "confidence bank" which meant normal horse behavior could be viewed as just normal horse behavior and not as the start of the apocalypse.

In September 2022, we competed at the Carolina Horse Park in the CBLM Championships and earned Champion in both the Training and First Level Sr A Divisions. That was a shock, but I decided it was just a cool "fluke of fortune."

In October, we headed to the USDF Regional Championships in Lexington, VA. USDF holds 9 Regional Championship shows, one for each USDF region. North Carolina is part of Region 1 and our championship show is generally well attended with 500+ horses. Regional Championships are important shows in and of themselves, but they are also the only way to earn an invitation to the US Dressage Finals, which is held in Lexington, KY every year. I hadn't attended Finals since my last place finish in 2016. I was eager to get back there and give it a try with Deacon, but first we had to earn an invitation. At Regionals, I was competing in the Training Level Adult Amateur (AA) division, First Level AA division, and the First Level Musical Freestyle.

At the start of Regionals, there were 50+ riders in the Training Level AA division, and 70+ riders in the First Level AA division which had to be split over two days of competition due to the class size. That's a lot of riders in one class! You don't have to win the class at Regionals to go to Finals, although that's one way to earn an invitation. You can also be invited if you meet the Wild Card Score requirement. The Wild Card score for all three of my divisions was 68%. Now, that doesn't sound too difficult to achieve unless you've competed at Regionals before and know how tough the judging panel can be in championship classes!

Continued...



Lysa Hodgson on Dark Knight (Deacon) after winning the USDF Regional Championships in Lexington, Virginia, Training Level AA championship class.
Photo Credit: Heather Mehal



Sept 2022 in Raeford, NC at Carolina Horse Park
Championship sashes and coolers won by Lysa Hodgson riding Dark Knight (Deacon) in the Training Level Sr A and First Level Sr A divisions at the NCDCTA Harvest Moon CBLM Championship
Photo Credit: Lysa Hodgson

To make a long story a little shorter, we unbelievably earned the title of Champion in the Training Level AA division at Regionals with a combined average score of 75.69%, securing our ticket to the US Dressage Finals! I was elated! Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would actually win Regionals on any horse at any level. EVER! And as we were packing up to go home, I found out that we were Reserve Champion in the huge First Level AA championship class with a 71.25%. That was completely unexpected, but wonderful news, and it earned us another ticket to Finals. We only scored a 67.2% and 6th place for our musical freestyle class, and thus missed the 68% cut off for Finals. Not too shabby, though. Finals invitations in two out of my three divisions, with Champion and Reserve Champion neck sashes to boot!

The rest of October 2022 was spent bubble wrapping both of us as my coworkers at the hospital seemed to be sidelined by either COVID or the flu, and the horses around us were succumbing to all the ways horses find to get themselves hurt or sick.

We finally headed out to Lexington, KY at 3:00 am on a Wednesday morning in early November. Our little convoy consisted of Deacon, Heather, and me, plus Michelle Martin and her horse Bristoll SF in a second trailer. We had fabulous weather for the first two days of our stay in KY. In fact, it was almost too warm with bright sunshine and temps in the upper 70's. Friday was my first competition day which consisted of only a warm-up First 3 class, just to test the waters. Of course, that's the day that the remnants of Hurricane Ian came through and drenched us! Luckily it was still relatively warm, but that was about to drastically change. My two championship rides were scheduled for first thing in morning on Saturday and Sunday. Both days were projected to be below freezing at my ride times, with daytime highs only in the 30's. Oh, and it was still precipitating in various forms of rain, sleet, and snow!

We were beyond wet and cold on Saturday morning as we prepared for the First Level Championship ride, but we were also laser focused on the task at hand. We had worked really hard to get to Finals and I wasn't about to back down because of the crazy weather. Luckily, Deacon loves cold weather so he was just looking forward to cookies at the end of the ride. First Level still felt like a stretch for us, especially when we were surrounded by the top horses from around the country. What in the world was I thinking?! I tried not to notice the floaty trots and powerful lengthenings. And what the heck were these horses doing at First Level anyway? They looked ready for Fourth!

But you know what I wasn't doing? I wasn't worrying about my horse or any possible antics. He was just going along, doing his thing, trying to follow my directions and being the best boy ever. I was so incredibly grateful to be riding Deacon at the biggest show of our lives, after a 50-degree temperature drop, with snow/sleet/wind, and surrounded by things like big electronic reader boards, bundled-up scary looking photographers and videographers, and judges positioned all around the arena. It was the best feeling in the world! I had complete faith that Deacon would give me his best effort and that he would keep me safe. And he did. We finished Saturday in 8th place at First Level! We actually ribboned at Finals! We took advantage of the opportunity to participate in the awards ceremony in the famed Alltech Arena, even though we found out at Regional Championships that Deacon doesn't appreciate the clapping at awards ceremonies held in big coliseums. I knew it was going to be a little touch and go. He was definitely nervous, as was I, but he never felt unsafe, he was just understandably unsure about the situation. I'm hoping we both get more comfortable with increased exposure.....and cookies!

Early Sunday morning, long before dawn, I could barely feel my fingers as I braided Deacon. Our warm-up was cold and windy, but we were ready to go as the first ride of the day! I really wanted to put in a solid effort and then get our little crew back to the barn and out of the cold and wind. As I went down centerline I could feel Deacon drop behind my leg. I knew we were both tired and this was going to take a lot of effort from both of us, especially because whips aren't allowed in championship classes and Deacon was well aware of that fact! The exhaustion didn't stop me from taking a moment during the test to look around and appreciate where we were and what we were doing, and realize that I was actually cantering this amazing horse of mine in a championship class at the US Dressage Finals. And I wasn't terrified at all. Tired, yes, but not terrified.

Continued...

I finished that test as a very proud horse mom. Lots of things could have been better. We needed more of everything... power, balance, accuracy. But, it was a good solid test from a super solid horse, and we scored an average of 71.897% from the three judge panel, including a 75.5% from C judge Janet Foy. We just had to wait for ALL the other riders to go before seeing how we measured up. We maintained our lead for almost 4 hours, but eventually finished as Reserve Champions. I'll take it!!! What an amazing experience! That score also earned us the High Score Hanoverian Award for the US Dressage Finals (National Level Adult Amateur).

Soon after we returned home, I found out we were also co-champions for the USDF Training Level AA division for the entire year, as well as All Breeds Champions for the American Hanoverian Society Training Level AA division. Being year-end champion for a USDF division meant that we were able to consistently score at a high level throughout the entire show season, under many judges and many different situations, resulting in the highest median score in the country for our division. Being reserve champion at Finals meant we were able to put together a great test on a cold windy morning, at the end of show season and far from home, while competing against the best horses in the country. I'm very proud of both accomplishments and will never forget this year.

But that brings us to the beginning of 2023, an odd-numbered year and all that it entails. I'm going to have faith that we will both stay sound and healthy, although as I write this I'm not allowed to ride until I have an MRI of my neck next week. It's not specifically horse related, more a combination of years of farm chores and my occupation. When you (hopefully) see me going down centerline this year, struggling with my first sitting trot attempts at 2nd Level, just give me a thumbs-up or a pat on the back, and maybe an adult beverage! Remind me that this is one of those years filled with opportunities for learning and growth. Remind me that 18 months ago I could barely trot at all and certainly couldn't canter, and almost gave up riding altogether. And while you're at it, look around at all of your fellow competitors and give them a big thumbs-up for getting out there, pushing their comfort zones, and going after new goals. We have no idea what kind of journey someone has been on even when it looks like it's lined with neck sashes and awards ceremonies. Take care of each other out there and happy riding in 2023!



Lysa Hodgson and Dark Knight on a victory lap after Reserve Champion in the Training Level Adult Amateur championship class. I'm proud of us for going in the Alltech Arena and making it all the way around despite us both being very nervous about the situation. Deacon received a lot of cookies following this victory lap.

Photo Credit: Susan Stickle Photography



Ribbons and coolers earned by Lysa Hodgson and Dark Knight during the 2022 show season.

Still waiting on a silver plate and the champion ribbons to arrive from the American Hanoverian Society.

Photo Credit: Lysa Hodgson

Both photos: Lysa Hodgson and Dark Knight competing in, and gratefully finishing, the First Level Adult Amateur Championship class with rain/sleet/snow falling and earning 8th place.
Photo Credit: Susan Stickle Photography



Lysa Hodgson riding Dark Knight in a First Level class at the 2022 US Dressage Finals in Lexington, Kentucky.
Photo Credit: Susan Stickle Photography

Just for Fun Flashback!

Thanks to Ginger Nelles for sending this in. Ginger came across this bit of history from a 2012 local East Wake Newspaper.

DRESSAGE DUO RECOGNIZED AT BANQUET



COURTESY OF GINGER NELLES

The N.C. Dressage & Combined Training Association held their annual Horse of the Year Awards Banquet at The Umstead Hotel in Cary on Jan. 12. For the 2012 dressage show season, Rebecca Nelles, left, won fifth place at the Intermediare I Level riding Diane Tauber's Swedish Warmblood mare, Rytmik. Nelles' student Jordyn Dunson, right, won Reserve Champion at the Junior/Young Rider Training Level with her National Show Horse mare, FYF Moonshadow. Dunson rides out of Hidden Spring Farm in Knightdale. Nelles, a U.S. bronze, silver and gold medalist, recently relocated to Ona, W. Va., to become head trainer at Charlotte's Creek Farms.

Have a great
memory to share?
email it to:
news@ncdcta.org



JUNIOR/YOUNG RIDERS SCHOLARSHIPS



NCDCTA provides scholarships to Junior/Young Riders
at our licensed competitions:



Watch the website for announcements
of 2023 Scholarships opportunities and deadlines.

Each scholarship will cover the cost of four classes, one stall, and a shared tack stall. This application, due by the show's opening date, will be randomly selected. Applicants do not need to be NCDCTA members.

[Link to Scholarship Application:](https://www.ncdcta.org/junior-scholarship)

<https://www.ncdcta.org/junior-scholarship>

To be eligible, applicants must indicate enthusiasm, thoughtfulness in the application, and dedication to competition as part of ongoing education in dressage. All qualified applicants will be put into a pool for each show. Winners will be drawn at random. Winners will be ineligible for other scholarships in that competition year unless there are fewer new applicants than slots to be filled.

Recipients will be responsible for the cost of classes beyond four, as well as the office fee, the USEF drug fee, and any other applicable fees, including but not limited to the USDF/GAIG qualifying fee and non-member fees. Decisions and entry procedures will be announced before the show's closing date. Within a reasonable time after the show each scholarship recipient is expected to submit a short article and photo of their experience for the newsletter.

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WHERE HORSES CAN TAKE US

Essay by: Dianne May -Author- www.authordiannemay.com

Recently I overheard moms talking at my daughter's soccer game about horses. One mom smiled and indicated that her daughter loved horses and she would indulge it a bit but she wasn't going to do the whole "horse thing". I thought about her comments long after the soccer game ended, mulling over the dismissal in her voice. I understand a person's reticence to jump into the world of horses, it's a huge costly endeavor, an entire world with its own language and many subsets of horse sports. But as most of us reading this know, if that young girl really loves horses, that kind of love is hard to squash and the positives of horses far outweigh the negatives.

There has never been a time in my life that I could pinpoint when horses and my love for them didn't exist. My earliest memories are of stopping at farms to pet them, of asking my parents for a pony for Christmas and then repeating that request every Christmas thereafter. Of watching horse trailers on the road and craning my neck to see passing horse farms on long road trips and feeling giddy when I saw both. Early on, my parents made it clear that as one of four kids, there was not enough money to buy a horse for me but I could take lessons and lease horses, which I did for years. I learned to ride short stocky stubborn ponies and quick fast thoroughbreds and everything in between. When I was nineteen, I hit the jackpot with a little OTTB that my trainer took in as a resale project. Salty became mine in theory to help her train and after several months he became mine in actuality. My mother shook her head sheepishly and remarked she couldn't believe they were giving in after nineteen years, but they did and the joy and wonder and knowledge that Salty gave me and the relationship we forged was immeasurable. I kept Salty for twenty years before he succumbed to colic and a lot of those years was spent doctoring his many lameness issues but I wouldn't trade any of it.

The love of horses, my passion for them, is a thread running through my life. At times, this passion has waned and taken a backseat to raising kids, or achieving an education, but it has never disappeared and I've been fortunate to have parents and now a husband who might not understand my passion but certainly accept and support it. This thread has connected me to people I wouldn't have met otherwise, travel to places I wouldn't have gone and overall enlarged my world. We bought our farm thirteen years ago and though at first I was happy with the newness of owning and running my own barn, over time I struggled with taking care of the horses on my own and loneliness. I took in my boarder, Jennifer and her mother Amanda, ten years ago and that set me on a path I never could have imagined. Due to them and their knowledge and passion for eventing, I started taking dressage lessons and then got back into jumping and finally competing. Learning eventing has been challenging and rewarding and so much fun. Through eventing, I've challenged myself in ways I never thought possible while also enlarging my world by meeting people I never would have known. I've stabled next to juniors giddy with enthusiasm and older confident experienced women competing at levels I can't fathom, parents nervously assisting their children and professionals offering smiles and advice. We are all different but we are all united in the love of this thousand pound animal. It's humbling and exhilarating.

Continued on the next page...

WHERE HORSES CAN TAKE US

My horse interest has afforded me a place to escape to when the outside world is overwhelming. It has taught me about hard work and perseverance. It has made me cry and laugh, sometimes simultaneously. At times my head has ached with anguish over an injured horse and at other times my heart wants to burst with joy and fullness from a soft nuzzle, a jump well executed or a floating trot down the longside. A few weeks ago I fell off competing at Stableview on cross country. I luckily popped back up and was immediately surrounded by my trainer, the jump steward and the medic who all peppered me with questions to make sure I was okay. The medic asked me if I hit my head, if I knew where I was, if anything was hurt besides my pride. I was able to say no to all the questions, but told her the pride especially hurt, and we all laughed.

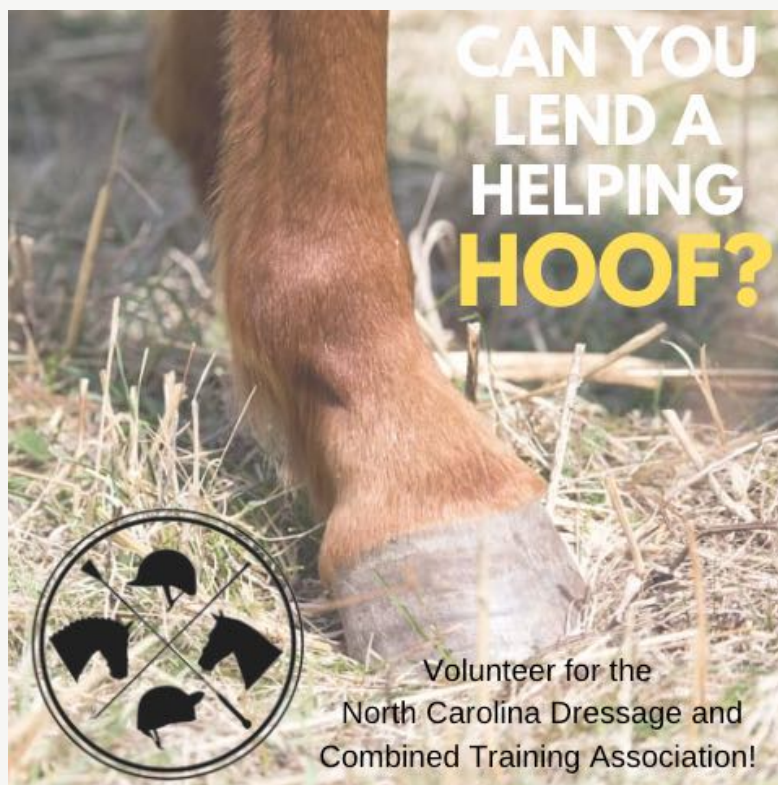
I understand this mother's skepticism when regarding the horse world, the wariness to embark on a hobby that can cost thousands of dollars with no guarantees of success. But at the end of the day it is a hobby and passion that can stay with you a lifetime, that can sustain you through the tough times and along the way enrich one's life immeasurably, which to me is the very definition of success. There's always something to learn and so many different ways to participate with horses and no matter what discipline in the horse world you choose, English, Western, vaulting, trail, endurance, it is the horse that remains, that is at the core. All that really matters is this magnificent powerful animal that bestows trust and love. The rest is details.

A few weeks ago I participated in a clinic. On the way to the ring I remarked to an older gentleman riding next to me, he on a big black Percheron mare, me on my pony sized red roan Quarter horse gelding, both of us riding in the same group, that I was part excited and part nervous. Five years ago I wouldn't have imagined I'd be trailering my horse somewhere, much less clinicing with a top eventing professional. He smiled and replied, "Me too. But here we are on this beautiful summer day doing the thing that we love. And that's really damn special and lucky." I couldn't have agreed with him more.

Author Dianne May during a
schooling day in Tyron.
Photo Credit to JMSmith Photography



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