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Connecticut Dressage Association

President's Message

Happy New Year!

Wow! What a wonderful clinic we had in November to introduce the new 2023 dressage tests. The temperatures were not so cooperative but all who attended were troopers and the evaluation forms that were returned indicated that it was a great event! I can't thank our demo riders enough. Bobbi Carleton, Sandy Brown, Jannike Gray, Megan Tursi, Lilly Koorejian, Matthew Beasley, Heather Norton, Stacy Daigle, and Danielle Dailey. You guys knocked it out of the park, and I know it's not easy riding with an audience and a running commentary! Lisa Schmidt was amazing, and her perspective and knowledge offered great insight for anyone hoping to show in 2023. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered to make it a terrific clinic.

Congratulations to all our year end awards winners! We are planning our annual awards party for Sunday January 22, 2023. It will be held at the Lakeview Lodge in Bethany (265 CT RTE 42) from 3-6 pm. Looking forward to seeing you all there for the first time since COVID! Please RSVP to Fern Feldman at fernfeldman@gmail.com so we can plan accordingly.

The 2023 CDA omnibus is in the works! If you would like to be a sponsor and place an ad or a prize list, please contact Carol DiCarlo at carol@cheshireequestriancenter.com

We will be updating the website in early January with our lineup of schooling shows, our July recognized show, clinics, and something new this year - a virtual schooling show. The perfect opportunity to try a new test and get feedback without having to leave home! Stay tuned for all the details.

Warmly, Hannah

**2022 CDA Year End Awards
Party
Sunday January 22, 2023
Lakeview Lodge, Bethany
(265 CT RTE 42)
3-6 pm
BYOB**



<http://www.ctdressage.org>

CDA Clinics

CDA and SVF Hosted Lisa Schmidt on Nov 19-20- 2022 to Review the Updated 2023 USDF Dressage Tests

From the Auditor Perspective

After several weekends of balmy, unseasonable fall temperatures, many individuals bundled up and were dressed for the cold temperatures that swooped in for the weekend.



Figure 1 Lisa Schmidt & Denise Clark

Auditor participation topped out at 53 for both days. Lisa's high energy and enthusiasm never waned. Lisa was generous with her comments and emphasized what the judge is looking for and how to pick-up points on movements at each level. In other words, ride every step – every movement counts!

Lisa encouraged the riders to 'create a reason to let go' and she emphasized self-carriage in the horse. This is what creates the harmony. Use the calf to 'lift' the horse's back up. The rider needs to follow with their elbows to encourage the horse to chew the bit and this will encourage stretching in the neck.



Figure 2 Matthew Beasley on Outer Banks

Lisa sought out questions from the auditors

Many thanks to the demo riders who were well-suited to showcase the new tests and pleasantly repeated movements.

From the CDA President

Starting with the original idea to the planning, to the demo rider selection and farm preparation, to the shirts and saddle pads, to the marketing and website organization, and to the many hands-on deck to set up

and check people in and clean up – the CDA really knocked it out of the park.



Figure 3 Megan Tursi on My Blue Angel

There was a tremendous amount of enthusiasm from attendees and volunteers, and this was reflected in the post evaluations scores of 5 out of 5 and positive comments such as: "Very informative and well-coordinated" – Linda Roche

"Thank YOU, Hannah and Liz, for all your hard work organizing such a helpful clinic! CDA has a great group of members who all work so well together! We are so lucky to have CDA in our area. Lisa was awesome!" – Bobbi Carleton

2023 Clinics

- Ride-Critique-Ride - clinic scheduled with Bobbi at SVF for 4/22-4/23
- Virginia Leary biomechanics – 5/13/23 at Lost Run Farm

Member News CDA Goes to the USDF Conference

Christine Engel, CDA Treasurer

In early December it was my privilege to attend the annual USDF Conference in Lexington, KY, as a representative of CDA. The conference ran from November 30 to December 3. I am keeping my official name tag as a memento of this inspiring event. The slogan for the event was "Take the Reins." I had previously been the designated delegate for our GMO when the conference was held online. I knew there would be official business at the Board of Governors Meetings, presentations by various expert lecturers and opportunities to share ideas with other GMO's. I was looking forward to the chance to meet other dressage-minded riders and horse lovers.

When I landed at the Blue Grass Airport, I quickly met other delegates. Horse people are easily identified; don't ask me exactly how. Ten of us filled the Hyatt Regency shuttle. Checking in was quick and easy and then I was off to register and to deliver CDA's gift "basket." It was a tote bag filled with "products unique

to your GMO state.” This language was from the USDF website which had encouraged the donations. Thanks to the Cheshire Equestrian Center, I had several items produced in Connecticut. I unpacked and displayed the contents on Wednesday night and the next morning discovered there were at least thirty offerings.

Impressive; but I still liked CDA’s offering best.

On Thursday there were five Open Forums available to all attendees:

Administrative Council, Technical Council, Activities Council, USEF/USDF

Trending Topics and US Dressage Finals. These panel discussions exposed me to the work done by many USDF members on a national level. Thanks to USDF riders can compete at many levels and be recognized for their accomplishments. My aspirations might not be any higher than our own schooling shows, but I certainly can admire those who aim higher and wider.

The Featured Education speaker on Thursday was Dr. Craig Lesser whose specialty is Equine Podiatry. He was a very engaging. Although I hope my horse never needs his sophisticated services it was fascinating to see his photographs and hear descriptions of the serious things that make up his daily work. Dr. Lesser at one point apologized for being so descriptive about foot abscesses but I came away with the impression that he loves his work and wants the rest of us to share in his enthusiasm. He took questions at the end and even offered one member his business card and encouraged her to ask her vet to give him a call about her horse’s problem.

Thursday night included a Welcome Reception, another wonderful opportunity to meet dressage riders from other parts of the country. The evening ended with a presentation by Gwen Ka’awaloa on how to handle equestrian emergencies. She explained many ways to handle equine injuries while waiting for your veterinarian. Ms. Ka’awaloa was also honored at the Friday night Gala as the 2022 Volunteer of the Year.

Friday morning began with Regional Meetings which was an opportunity to talk with other GMOs in Region

8. Popular topics were ways and means to attract sponsors, keeping shows affordable for members and GMO sponsored education opportunities. CDA’s New Test Clinic which we had hosted in November was a prime example of this last category.

Representatives of The Dressage Federation were on hand to discuss their grants and to encourage delegates to apply for financial assistance. Jenny Johnson, the Executive Director of the Dressage Foundation, spoke about “The Do’s and Don’t’s of Fund Raising.” Several attendees offered suggestions for what has worked, or not, within their own GMOs.

The Competition Open Forum was an interesting session with lots of contributions from the delegates. There was much discussion of the newly revised 2023 US Dressage Tests, which went into effect during the time of the convention. Panel members talked about practical subjects such as the proper way to perform a stretchy trot, reminded riders that collection is not just moving more slowly, and described riding a proper centerline and corner. The Board of Governors meeting on Friday afternoon included awards to various GMOs for photography, newsletters, website and special articles. Outstanding volunteers from each region were also recognized. A highlight of the afternoon was selecting names from a box and giving away half of the gift baskets. Each delegate had one ticket and unfortunately my name was not called, a mixed blessing since I wondered how I would have gotten it home with my checked luggage.

Saturday morning began with a panel presentation on Competition Management Education, “Be Prepared: Execution of Accident Preparedness, Handling Emergencies and Isolation Plans.” Serious injuries to horses and riders do happen and we should be prepared for the unexpected and the worst-case scenario.

Dr. Avi Blake, the Technical Services Veterinarian for American Regent Animal Health, talked about keeping our senior horses happy and comfortable in competitions. Many of our horses compete well into their 20’s so Dr. Blake’s “Constructing a Wellness Program for the Aging Performance Horse” was well received. Her most important recommendations were regular vet exams, hoof care and dental care, and close observation of your older horse.

At the same time as Dr. Blake’s presentation on aging performance horses there was a Youth Education session, “Creating Effective Goals.” From the



Figure 4 CDA’s basket won best basket in the 75-to-200 member category!

conference report on the USDF website I read that it was very popular with the younger delegates.

The morning ended with the second half of the Board of Governors meeting. Delegates approved the Treasurer's Report and proposed new budget. A few rule changes were voted upon with little discussion. Several officers were elected, including Vice President, Kevin Reinig and Secretary, Debra Reinhardt, from our own Region 8. Congratulations Debra!

The remaining gift baskets were distributed to several lucky winners and there was a special announcement that the outstanding gift basket in each GMO size category would be recognized. CDA's basket won the award for the best basket in the 75-to-200-member category. It was a satisfying end to a great dressage experience. For a more complete description of the USDF Conference for 2023, I encourage you to visit the USDF website. The articles are easy to find.

General Announcements

Earn USDF Volunteer Recognition – See more info in the USDF Region 8 News.

Volunteer Information -

There is a need for volunteers! If you are interested in one of these roles, Email Carol Mohyde carolmohyde@icloud.com or Amy Ravitz amy.ravitz@yahoo.com.

- **2023 Volunteers for Schooling Shows**
- **Opportunity to 'Shadow' a Volunteer –** ask Carol or Amy

ISO CDA Newsletter Coordinator – individual needed to coordinate monthly CDA newsletter using MailChimp (experience not necessary).

Additional Volunteer Opportunities

High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center located in Old Lyme, is currently seeking volunteers over the age of 14 with horse experience.

Please visit the volunteer section of our website - highhopestr.org or call 860-434-1974 for more information.

Please check out the full-time volunteer coordinator position open. The posting is also located on the High Hopes web page. *Submitted by Jeanna Pellino*

USDF Region 8 News

USDF Group Member Organizations Volunteer Incentive Program

The Group Member Organization (GMO) Volunteer Incentive Program is a way for current USDF Group Members to earn recognition by volunteering with their GMO(s).

Track your volunteer hours using the GMO Volunteer Incentive Program Hour Log below and have a current GMO officer or official of record with USDF (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor, webmaster, roster contact) validate your hours with their signature. Once a milestone has been achieved, submit the form to USDF.

[GMO Volunteer Incentive Program Hour Log](#)

A Message from our Regional Director - January 2023

Greetings Region 8!

Happy New Year one and all! I hope you and yours had a beautiful holiday season.

When I last wrote to you, I was attending the Convention in Lexington. It was very successful with the highlight being the Salute Gala on Friday night. One contentious issue that arose during the rules discussion regarded a proposed USEF rule change impacting judges' and other officials' relationship with students, boarders, etc. Thanks to the number of comments to the USEF website from interested parties and contacts from various USDF committees, this rule is being rethought and we hope to see a revised proposal at some point.

As I mentioned in my previous bulletin, the turnout at the Convention was rather slim this year. I would still be interested in hearing any comments from those who attended AND comments as to why you didn't attend. Both will help make next year's convention better.

Anyone interested in participating in the L Program, CNYDCTA is offering the program starting February 25. For information or to sign up, go to www.CNYDCTA.org.

All the best!
Helen van der Voort
vandeh13@gmail.com

Dressage 4 Kids – D4K Dates for 2023 to Come

- D4K Festival
 - WEP – Weekend Equestrian Program
-

Renew Today! CDA Membership for 2023!

[Click here](#) to see all the fantastic benefits of membership!

CDA Sponsorship Opportunity in the 2023 Omnibus

The CDA Omnibus is an annual publication distributed to our 175+ members, as well as to other USDF group member organizations nationally. Our membership is represented by active dressage enthusiasts, residing, and competing in the northeast. The Omnibus is an invaluable reference used throughout the year by our members, to get information not only on schooling show in the region, but professional goods and services related to their equine needs!

Please consider sponsoring the Omnibus and sharing this with anyone who might benefit or want to support the CDA. We are a not-for-profit organization, and the Sponsorship revenue significantly helps to defray the costs of producing the Omnibus.

CDA Sponsors – Connecticut Dressage Association (ctdressage.org)

CDA Scholarships CDA Scholarships for Youth & Amateurs Vista Vintage Educational Scholarship

CDA offers one or more scholarships per year, per category for CDA members. Check out the details for 2022 on the [CDA Scholarship Web](#) page.

The Vista Vintage Educational Scholarship



Through the continued generosity of Vista Vintage Award founder, Ted Plaut, CDA is excited to announce the formation of the Vista Vintage Educational Scholarship.

The Vista Vintage Award was started in 2008, to honor Ted's long-time equine companion, Vista GeeWiz, a Morgan/Trakehner gelding. It is Ted's philosophy that because horses are living longer, healthier lives, often working and competing well into their late teens and early twenties, the Vista Vintage Award acknowledges the accomplishment of competing later in life.

Following along the same line of thought, the Vista Vintage Educational Scholarship will be given to further the education of horse and rider. It is Ted's feeling that better training at any age leads to a happier, healthier horse.

The Vista Vintage Fund also supports Dressage4Kids at its Weekend Educational Program. For more information contact Kari Bradshaw at rkhotshoe@aol.com.

The Dressage Foundation Century Club Scholarship Opportunities



The Century Club recognizes Dressage riders and horses whose combined age totals 100 years or more. The Century Club was formed at The Dressage Foundation in 1996, at the suggestion of Max Gahwyler (CT). To learn more, go to the Dressage Foundation Web page – [About the Century Club](#).

Browse the [Century Club](#) website to learn more about the programs, grants and ways to support the dressage community.

Call to Action from The Dressage Foundation!

We [Sara Weiss, Dir of Grants, TDF] are hoping you can please help us spread the word about this grant opportunity for instructors in your Region.

Applications for TDF's **Verne Batchelder Instructor Fund** are due September 10. These grants, established by Verne's family and friends in 2020, are dedicated to the memory of his long career as a

dressage instructor and sport horse breeder. The Fund provides grants of up to \$2,500 to professional instructors from USDF Regions 1, 3, or 8 (Verne's "home" Regions) for continuing education and training.

More information >> <https://bit.ly/3P5iy2l>

Gifted Memorial Fund for Adult Amateurs

This Scholarship enables Adult Amateurs to set aside quality-time, in concentrated training away from the daily pressures of job and family, with a horse the recipient owns or formally leases (as documented by USDF or USEF paperwork).



Up to nine \$1,000 grants are available each year (one in each USDF Region), plus two additional \$1,000 wild card grants (which can be awarded in any Region). Follow the below link for details and guidelines. <http://www.dressagefoundation.org>

Follow CDA on Facebook CDA Facebook Page



CDA Facebook Pictures Needed

Please submit pictures for the CDA Facebook.

(Submitter needs to own the picture or copyright of the submission.)

Send to president@ctdressage.org

Schooling Show Competitions Awards Criteria for 2023

Active CDA members are eligible to submit scores for the following: Youth, Adult Amateur and Open competitors who compete between November 1, 2022 and October 31, 2023 at the following:

- 1) CDA-sponsored schooling shows.
- 2) Schooling shows whose prize lists appear in the 2022 CDA OMNIBUS.
- 3) Schooling show listings that are published in the CDA website.
- 4) Rider must be a paid member at the time of showing for scores to count for year-end awards.

Online submissions can be done starting November 1, 2023 and will end on December 1, 2023.

Full details and requirements are outlined on the [CDA Competition Web page](#).

"The horse is the best judge of a good rider, not the spectator. If the horse has a high opinion of the rider, he will let himself be guided, if not, he will resist".

Nuno Oliveira

2023 Calendar of Events

Please check the Website regularly for the status of events Ctdressage.org

Next CDA Board Meeting

Monday, February 20, 2023 – 6:00 PM

At Fern Feldman's house **OR**

Zoom Meeting will start at 6:45 pm

Contact Fern Feldman | fernfeldman@gmail.com

CDA Sponsored Schooling Shows Eligible for 2023 Year-End Awards

Discount for members!

Tentative Schedule and more details to follow for 2023:

May 6 and Sept 10 both at SPV

7/23—Weatogue

8/13—Our Folly

9/30-Bellefree

7/19 at Weatogue—rated show

Here is a list of schooling shows that also qualify for CDA year-end awards only IF THE RIDER IS A CDA MEMBER prior to show. These shows may qualify a rider for USDF year-end awards. Please check with organizer.

USDF/USEF Recognized Shows

Sperry View Farm

SVF Recognized Show Series IV & Champs

www.sperryviewfarm.com

2023 Virtual Show – More information to come!

E-MAIL: centerline@ctdressage.org
We're on the Web!

See us at: **www.ctdressage.org**

A Not-for-Profit Organization Promoting Dressage in the Northeast through Education
and Opportunity.