

May/June 2023



# CENTERLINE



Connecticut Dressage Association

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**President's Message**

Summer is here!!

We have a couple of testimonials from an April and May clinic and there is one more clinic to look forward to! June features a **Stephen Hayes clinic**. Stephen is known for his patient, encouraging style and works well with all levels of riders. Check out [www.ctdressage.com](http://www.ctdressage.com) for all the details and application forms!

The first clinic was the always popular **Ride/Critique/Ride clinic with Bobbi Carleton** at the end of April. Mid-May brought our **Biomechanics clinic with Virginia Leary**. Virginia has been working with Andy Thomas (former symmetry coach for US and British Olympic teams) for years and is in the process of completing her coach's certification for biomechanics. Denise Clark shares her experience and how working on your position helps your horse be his or her very best.

Of course, we have our usual line up of schooling shows from May through October – including the introduction of a virtual show in June. Once again, dates, locations and further details can be found on our website.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with shows! If you are interested in scribing or helping as a ring steward, please reach out to Carol Mohyde at [carolmohyde@icloud.com](mailto:carolmohyde@icloud.com) and let her know!

As most things in life these days, our costs have increased. We have a modest increase this year in our non-member fees from \$5 to \$15 to attend events. Our hope is that this will encourage more people to join CDA and take advantage of the member pricing. If your friends are on the fence – please encourage them to join for preferred pricing and year end award eligibility!

Just a reminder that we do not issue membership numbers. Membership in CDA includes a group membership to USDF and you will receive a membership number from USDF. A list of current members is available on our website including the date joined or renewed. Should you have any question about your status this list is available for you to check.

We are looking forward to a great season of CDA sponsored events and looking forward to seeing you all!

Warmly,  
Hanna

# 2023 CDA Sponsored Clinics

## Ride Critique Ride (RCR) Testimonials

April 22 and 23, 2023

With Judge Bobbi Carleton  
Hosted by Sperry View Farm

*From rider participant Kim Tester:*

The clinic was so helpful as always. I was struggling with transitions from trot to canter and back so Bobbi gave Kara (my horse) and me an exercise to repeat as practice.

The most important tidbit of information I received



from Bobbi was to remember that sometimes the best thing to do is to "let go" instead of holding tighter onto the horse's mouth. It seems so easy to think about but counterintuitive to put into action.

The RCR gave me the opportunity to ride the test again so that I could practice thinking through

it all more quickly. To my surprise and delight, I remembered to let go at times. Allowing Kara to relax, and low and behold our score improved!

*From rider participant Denise Clark:*

There was a great turn out with nine rides filling each day. This format is a great way to start the show season. The participant registers with their test of choice. The test is ridden and scored just as in a show. After the judge finishes her remarks, she comes into the arena and reviews the test with the rider. Corrections and ways to improve the test are given and practiced. The participant can then ride the test again hoping to improve the score.

Bobbi Carleton has such a positive way of judging and reviewing the test with the rider and giving exercises for improvement. I rode my test and Bobbi reviewed what areas needed improvement. She then gave me exercises to do with my horse to achieve improved scores. Thank you to CDA for continuing to provide its members with such excellent clinics.

**BIOMECHANICS clinic**  
**May 13, 2023 with Virginia Leary**  
Hosted by Lost Run Farm, Litchfield CT

*From rider participant Denise Clark:*

CDA hosted a Biomechanics Clinic with Virginia Leary at Lost Run Farm in Litchfield, Connecticut.

Virginia's goal is to improve the rider's position in the saddle enhancing the balance between horse and rider. There were three exercises performed before mounting the horse. Two were leg stretches and leg position, and one for the core.

When mounted, Virginia placed a stretchy tape on the rider starting with the leg position and adding tape to seat, waist, back to shoulders and wrists while walking, trotting and at the canter as well. With each adjustment, the horse became more relaxed and supple. The rider's position appeared to be more centered and stable. It is so impressive to watch subtle changes to the rider have such a positive effect on the horse.

Thank you to Virginia Leary for showing us another way to improve our relationship with our partners.

*Virginia Leary Bio:*

Virginia is working to complete her coach's certification for biomechanics under Andy Thomas, former symmetry coach for the US and British Olympic teams.

This work enables riders and their horses to become straighter and more comfortable. Virginia has been teaching this method for several years in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, South Carolina and Florida and she credits the program with her ability to walk and ride properly after a hip fracture in the Spring of 2022.

**STEPHEN HAYES Clinic**  
**June 24th 2023**

Hosted by Belle Free Farm, Columbia CT  
86 Hennequin Rd.  
Columbia, CT

**Clinic is full – Come as an Auditor!**

British dressage rider Stephen Hayes is based at Perfect Harmony Dressage through the year in NY and FL. He has been head rider for Beatrice Ferrer Salat (Team Rider for Spain in many Olympics including, Sydney, Athens, London and Rio).

Stephen has also ridden and competed for GB Olympic team rider Vicki Thompson Winfield. He is currently competing in Wellington FL on Kunzo, a 10 year old PRE at Intermediate 1, and aims to compete Remember Me, a 15 year old Oldenburg at Grand Prix.

Stephen conducts clinics throughout the world using very effective and positive training methods - particularly for the piaffe and passage. His lessons have been described as 'addictive' and

Stephen's character is described as 'humble' and 'down to earth' which invites riders of all levels of experience to feel comfortable and at ease yet motivated during a training session.

45 minutes sessions.  
Limited to 10 rides.

No food available  
\$185 for CDA Members  
\$200 for non-Members

Auditors: \$25 for CDA Members or \$40 for non-members

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## General Announcements

**Earn USDF Volunteer Recognition – See more at [GMO Volunteer Incentive Program Hour Log](#)**

### Volunteer Information -

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

- **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). [Contact Pam Wilhelm.](#)**

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## USDF Region 8 News

**USDF Group Member Organizations Volunteer Incentive Program**

## A Message from our Regional Director – May 2023 Greetings Region 8!

Show season is off and running, and I hope everyone is enjoying the process of getting all polished up. I made it to Omaha for the Executive Board meeting – info from that will be available soon. Needless to say, I saw some amazing riding. Wow.

One item that has been announced that came out of the Board meeting is that sadly, the Schooling Show Award program has been discontinued effective immediately. USDF is looking at alternatives to take its place in the future.

We have a few youth-oriented opportunities coming up that I want to highlight. As I included in last month's newsletter, we in Region 8 are incredibly lucky that Sabine Schut-Kery will be our clinician at the Youth Clinic to be held June 10 and 11 at Weatogue Stables in Salisbury CT. APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MAY 7. The rider information and application can be found at <https://www.usdf.org/education/clinics/jryr/riders.asp>. This is a fantastic opportunity for all of us to learn from one of our Olympic athletes, and I encourage you to apply or attend as an auditor. All youth and their designated chaperone can attend for free. It is \$20 per day for adult USDF members and \$40 per day for non-members. No registration required.

USEF has announced the Higher Education Equestrian Scholarship. There are five \$1000 scholarships available to graduating high school seniors who are committed to furthering their equestrian skills and knowledge while in college. Information is at <https://www.usef.org/media/press-releases/applications-now-open-for-us-equestrian-higher>.

There is a dedicated page on the USDF website here <https://www.usdf.org/education/youth-quick-reference-guide.asp>, that gives a lot of information on opportunities.

Some really exciting youth news: Callie O'Connell from Wilmington Ma, and her equine partner Eaton H have been selected to the US Dressage European U25 Tour. Congratulations!

Here is the link to the show season calendar on the USDF website:  
<https://www.usdf.org/calendar/competitions.asp>.

Some other dates to look forward to include:

6/1/2023-6/30/2023 Voting is open for the PM delegates to the Board of Governors at the Convention. Please keep an eye out for the announcement of the delegates and VOTE!

9/21/2023-9/24/2023 Region 8 GAIG/USDF Championships in Saugerties NY

11/9/2023-11/12/2023 USDF Dressage Finals

11/29/2023-12/2/2023 2023 Adequan/USDF Annual Convention in Omaha NE

All the best!

Helen van der Voort

[vandeh13@gmail.com](mailto:vandeh13@gmail.com)

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## Dressage 4 Kids – D4K Dates for 2023 to Come

- D4K Festival
- WEP – Weekend Equestrian Program

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## Renew Today! CDA Membership for 2023!

To check your 2023 membership status, click here [Members-as-of-Feb-2023.pdf \(ctdressage.org\)](#)

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

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## CDA Sponsorship Opportunity in the 2024 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)

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## 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 2023 on the [CDA Scholarship Web](#) page.

## The Vista Vintage Educational Scholarship



Through the continued generosity of Vista Vintage Award founder, Ted Plaut, CDA stewards the Vista Vintage Educational Scholarship.

The Vista Vintage Award singles out the best performances by our special senior horses. These are the equine partners who demonstrate that age is no barrier to competing and earning scores to make any rider proud.

The Vista Vintage Award program focuses on the success of 'senior horses. It consists of a \$300 cash prize and an elegant special award.

For more information contact Kari Bradshaw at [rkhotshoe@aol.com](mailto:rkhotshoe@aol.com).

## Philla and Charlie Osborne Volunteer Award

Each year, CDA has the option to give a Volunteer of the Year Award for special service to CDA.

History: The award is named in honor of Philla and Charlie Osborne who donated hours and hours of service to CDA in the 80's and 90's. They were always found at the practice ring at shows (recognized and schooling) checking numbers and entries and letting riders know when they were "on deck". Philla and Charlie also rode for many years with Vicki Hammers-O'Neil and today, Philla owns a horse that is being trained and competed by Vicki.

## CDA Rider Achievement Awards

A new annual CDA Rider Recognition Program focusing on Juniors and AA's. Qualifying rides must be completed within the current competition year and can be achieved at either schooling or recognized shows.

Scores can be achieved on multiple horses. Training through 4th level. 3 scores, minimum 62% for schooling and 60% for recognized.



### 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](mailto:president@ctdressage.org)

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## 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](#).

## 2023 Calendar of Events

**\*Please check the Website regularly for the status of events [Ctdressage.org](http://Ctdressage.org)**

### Next CDA Board Meeting

Monday, July 13, 2023 – 6:00 PM

At Fern Feldman's house **OR**

Zoom Meeting will start at 7:00 pm

Contact Fern Feldman | [fernfeldman@gmail.com](mailto:fernfeldman@gmail.com)

## CDA Sponsored Schooling Shows

**Please check the hosting farm's website for more details.**

### Sperry View Farm

91 Bethway Rd.

Bethany, CT

**Sunday 9/10/23** (opening date: 8/20/23 - closing date 9/3/23)

Judge: Corinna Fleming (L Graduate with Distinction)

### Location Virtual (Spotlight Horse Shows)

Enter an online show — Spotlight Horse Shows

Date: **Saturday 6/17** (Please refer to Spotlight Horse Shows website for details)

### Location: Weatogue Stables

33 Weatogue Rd.

Salisbury, CT

Date: **Sunday 7/23/2022** (Please refer to Weatogue Stable prize list for details)

### Location: R Folly Farm

380 W. Morris Rd.

Morris, CT

Date: Sunday 8/13/23 (opening date: 7/23/23 - closing date: 8/6/23)

Judge: Matthew Beasley (L Graduate with Distinction)

### Location: Belle Free Farm

86 Hennequin Rd.

Columbia, CT

Date: \*Saturday 10/7/2023 (opening date 9/16/2023 – closing date 9/30/2023)

Judge: Liana Antanovich (L Graduate with Distinction)

**\*Please refer to CDA Schooling Show master prize list for details**

2023 CDA Sponsored Schooling shows will meet all requirements for USDF Regional Schooling show Awards program