

Sep/Oct 2023



CENTERLINE



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President's Message

Greetings!

It is hard to believe the summer has flown by and I am writing this on the first official day of Autumn. Bittersweet but it's a gorgeous day and I had the pleasure of a trail ride on my horse Noah today – beautiful breeze and not a bug in sight – a slice of heaven!

It is a thrill to report on the success of the CDA sponsored activities in 2023. The rider and auditor participation were a testament to this. I was at most of them for at least part of the day and it was such a joy to see the partnership that you all enjoy with your horses. I audited the Stephen Hayes clinic in June and was blown away by Valerie Hodder and Moondog. Moondog is the definition of the "little engine that could." His willingness to try his hardest combined with Valerie's sensitivity to his stamina and need for regular breaks was wonderful to watch. Her profile is featured in this issue – enjoy!

CDA is working on the schooling show line-up and clinics for 2024. The virtual show in June was so popular that the plan is to offer two in the 2024 winter timeline. Stay tuned for details on those!

After two years of sponsoring a USDF recognized show, we have decided not to continue. There is no shortage of recognized shows to enter, and the schooling show format is a better fit for CDA.

November 1, 2023, through December 1, 2023 will be the year end award submission window. More news will follow about the 2023 awards party to be held in early 2024.

As always, we welcome your ideas and participation in CDA. Please feel free to join our monthly meetings via Zoom or in person or reach out to me directly via email!

Ride on and be safe!
Best, Hanna

"You only need 3 things to be happy:
someone to love, something to do and
someone to do it with. If you love horses,
this takes care of itself."

Jimmy Wofford

2023 CDA Sponsored Clinics

STEPHEN HAYES Clinic June 24th 2023

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

On June 24, CDA hosted a clinic at the beautiful Belle Free Farm with British dressage trainer Stephen Hayes. Our sincere thanks is extended to Cornelia Hamilton, owner of the beautiful Belle Free Farm, for hosting this clinic which provided riders in the area with this unique opportunity. In addition, CDA thanks Laura Barbash for all her help at clinic.

It was a full day of rides, many different breeds, valuable coaching, and most importantly - good humor. Stephen is kind, knowledgeable, and an engaging clinician. Everyone came away with new ideas and useful exercises.

Carrie Wind started the day on her Arab/QH mare, Safire n' Lace, training at second level.



Figure 1 Carrie & Safire
Carrie was followed by Denise Clark and her TB Partners in Gold.



Figure 2 Denise & Partner
Young rider, Alessandra Cockett brought her Dutch Riding Pony, **Palermo**, who's lovely gaits impressed all with her talents.

The morning ended with Val Hodder and her QH **RR Moondog**. Moondog was so impressive at PSG that it prompted Stephen to share that **THIS** was the horse he wanted to take home!



Figure 3 Morgan & Luchanero

The afternoon showed off the Iberians in full force, with Morgan Basner and Luchanero MC, Donna Dunbar and Tunante OVI, Viola Tagliatela and Nepote MC, and Francesca Edwards and Troubadour DEM. Linda Roache ended the day with her Kynemont Laney at 4th level.

CDA Year End Awards

The deadline for submission will be
December 1, 2023.

All submission will be made electronically via CDA's website at www.ctdressage.org. The appropriate submission forms will be available online **November 1, 2023, through December 1, 2023**, for shows between November 1, 2022 and October 31, 2023.

Member Profile



Val Hodder and her QH
RR Moondog

This is our story:

I bred Moon from my QH stallion and a friend's cutting bred mare. His sire is foundation bred with

little TB influence which of course gives him that bulldog type build.

I raised and trained him at home with reining horse basics. I found my way to Western Dressage and competed him lightly until friends encouraged us to try Classical Dressage. I was hooked! He had lateral basics from early training, but we had a lot to learn.

We began competing at Schooling shows where I learned the importance of contact and being uphill. Getting a downhill horse to be uphill is quite a challenge! We worked at home in rain, mud, and snow to refine our partnership with infrequent but good instruction from some great teachers.

Our first year at rated shows we earned all but one score towards our bronze medal which we finished the following spring. In 2022 we earned our last score for a Silver Medal. We recently earned one score towards our Gold Medal and even if we don't get there, this journey with him had been the most rewarding experience of my life and he has taught me so much about precision, balance, listening and how important reward is to a horse. When a friend lost her horse to an illness, she earned her last score towards her Bronze Medal on Moon on her birthday.

Moon is my once in a lifetime heart horse. He always tries hard at whatever I ask of him whether in the sandbox, swimming in the ocean,

trail riding or pulling logs in full harness, he had a giving, kind nature and adores people.

Thank you CDA for recognizing my special horse and for the shows and clinics that give us all the opportunity to learn and grow as riders. We have enjoyed them all immensely!

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 or Amy Ravitz 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.](#)

USDF Region 8 News

USDF Group Member Organizations Volunteer Incentive Program

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

Greetings Region 8!

I have very exciting news for our region! Two of our very own have been recognized by USDF for their incredible dedication and service to dressage – Sally Davenport and Beth Jenkins!

Sally Davenport has received the USDF Lifetime Achievement Award for demonstrating a lifelong dedication to USDF and its mission through faithful volunteerism, attendance at annual meetings, and overall service to the organization. From the press release, "Sally's influence and leadership has been felt in the community for decades, as documented by her being named 2013 USDF Volunteer of the Year. From her longtime membership in NEDA, where she organizes and administers numerous educational programs still today, her ongoing dedication to judge

and technical delegate education and her service as a Dressage Technical Delegate, FEI Steward, FEI Para Dressage Steward, and member/chair of the USDF Technical Delegate Committee, Sally's influence and leadership has permeated the US Dressage community for decades."

Beth Jenkins has been named a USDF Member of Distinction. This award recognizes a member who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to their local area or region toward carrying out our sport's mission. Again, quoting from the press release, "her longtime dedication to NEDA, where she is the longest serving member of their Board of Directors, Region 8, and USDF has been integral to the successes of, and opportunities made available to, the dressage community. In addition to the many roles she has played in both NEDA and USDF, having served as USDF Vice President from 2010 to 2013, Beth is a retired ASHA 'R' Dressage Judge, has managed some of the largest dressage competitions in the country, and has been paramount in supporting and promoting dressage education."

Congratulations to both of you, and I look forward celebrating with you, and hopefully many other Region 8 people at the Convention.

I am also excited to share the news of Region 8 at NAYC last month. Our Junior Team made up of Leah Drew and Damons Davian, Sophia Forsyth and Dimagico, and Lucy Sheldon and Porche's Florencia had a fantastic week, placing a solid third in the Team Competition. Leah held on to place 8th in the Junior Individual Test. While the Young Rider Team, made up of Gabriel Epstein and Bandito, Nash Gagnon and Eros SSF, and Isabela Thorpe and Porche's Florencia did not medal, they had a great experience and are looking forward to next year. My co-Chef, Bobbi Carleton and I had a great time. It was a cooperative, fun group of kids, and their parents even behaved!

A final congratulations to all of you who have qualified for the Regionals September 20-24th. I look forward to seeing you and cheering you on. In order to move on to the Finals in Kentucky in November, each horse/rider combination **must declare their intention to participate** by filling in the form here <https://www.horseshowoffice.com/usdf.org/declare1.asp>. **If you do not declare by midnight on September 20th you will not be eligible, even if you have the scores to qualify. Its free to sign up, so bloody well do it!** Much more information here: <https://www.usdf.org/usdressagefinals/index.asp>

While you are either competing or cheering your friends on at the Regionals, please check out the silent auction to raise funds for the Participating Member Delegates whom you have voted for, to help with their travel expenses. The auction will be open on Saturday, the 23rd. Kate O'Connor would love to have more items for the auction, so please email her at nativeross@charter.net if you have an item you would like to donate.

Here are a few grants being offered by The Dressage Foundation and their deadlines:

9/30 – Major Lindgren Instructor Education Fund

10/7 – Young Rider Dream Program in Wellington FL.

Here is the link to the Foundation website which has many, many more grant opportunities.

<https://www.dressagefoundation.org/grants-and-programs/apply/>

The Convention schedule has now been posted at <https://www.usdf.org/convention/Conv2023Agenda062223.pdf>. Please consider attending. Without our attendance and input, USDF has no way of knowing what is important to us.

Some other dates to look forward to include:

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

10/14-10/15 The 2023 Absorbine/NEDA Symposium with Kyra Kyrklund at Mt. Holyoke in Massachusetts. Here is a link to sign up to audit <https://neda.org/page/2023Symposium>. Beth Beukema reports there are still rooms available at the MGM Springfield.

11/9-11/12 USDF Dressage Finals – Nominations open 9/21

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

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

Renew Today! CDA Membership for 2024!

To check your 2024 membership status, click here [Members-as-of-Aug-2023.pdf](https://www.ctdressage.org/Members-as-of-Aug-2023.pdf) ([ctdressage.org](https://www.ctdressage.org))

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

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)

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.

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

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**

Next CDA Board Meeting

Monday, October 16, 2023 – 6:00 PM
At Fern Feldman's house **OR**

Zoom Meeting will start at 7:00 pm
Contact Fern Feldman | 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
See you in 2024

Virtual (Spotlight Horse Shows)

[Enter an online show — Spotlight Horse Shows](#)

See you in 2024

(Please refer to Spotlight Horse Shows website for details)

Weatogue Stables

33 Weatogue Rd.
Salisbury, CT
See you in 2024

R Folly Farm

380 W. Morris Rd.
Morris, CT
See you in 2024

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