

June/July 2025



# CENTERLINE



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## President's Message

### Greetings!

Summer is officially here, and so is the warm weather—perfect for an exciting season of dressage! CDA's show season is in full swing. We recently hosted a successful CDA Schooling Show at Weatogue Stables, as well as the final CDA Virtual Show with Spotlight Horse Shows.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our upcoming schooling shows: **August** – CDA Schooling Show at *R Folly Farm*, **September** – CDA Schooling Show at *Sperry View Farm*, **October** – CDA Schooling Show at *Belle Free Farm*.

We're also thrilled to host a USDF-sponsored clinic with Kathy Connelly, happening **July 17–18** at *Sperry View Farm*. Riders from Second Level through Grand Prix will be participating. Auditors are welcome! Kathy will host a Q&A session during each lunch hour—everyone is encouraged to attend. The auditing fee is \$25.00/day and includes lunch. Please bring your own chair. Each day starts at 8:30 am and ends at 4 pm. Visit our website for full details and to register. Walk-ins are accepted (with no lunch provided.) A heartfelt thank you to *USDF* for their generous support in making this clinic possible.

Coming up in **August**, don't miss our **In-Hand Clinic** with CDA board member **Patricia Norcia** at her farm, *Idlenot*. Then in **October**, we wrap up the season with a clinic led by **Lisa Schmidt** at *Belle Free Farm*. For all program details, be sure to check the Omnibus and visit our website.

A big thank you to our incredible volunteers—your support makes these events possible! Special thanks as well to the farms who graciously host our shows and clinics. We're always looking for new volunteers, ideas, and input. Everyone is welcome at our monthly meetings! If you'd like to get involved, feel free to reach out to me at [blasivalerie@yahoo.com](mailto:blasivalerie@yahoo.com) or to Fern Feldman at [fernfeldman@gmail.com](mailto:fernfeldman@gmail.com).

Hope you and your horses stay cool this summer!

**Best regards,**  
**Valerie Blasi**

*"When you take the time to connect with your horse from the ground, he'll learn to read your intentions. So, even in a chaotic environment, he'll look to you instead of just reacting. The stronger your connection is, the less likely he'll be bothered by uncertain things."*

*~ Chelsea Canedy*

**Lisa Schmidt Clinic October 11, 2025**  
**Belle Free Farm Columbia, CT**  
**ENTRY FORM**

## 2025 CDA Sponsored Clinics



**Kathy Connelly Clinic**  
**July 17-18 @SVF**

**Clinic Full; Auditors Welcome**

We are thrilled to host a USDF-sponsored clinic with Kathy Connelly, happening **July 17-18** at *Sperry View Farm*. Riders from Second Level through Grand Prix will be participating. Auditors are welcome! Kathy will host a Q&A session during each lunch hour—everyone is encouraged to attend. The auditing fee is \$25.00/day and includes lunch. Please bring your own chair. Each day starts at 8:30 am and ends at 4 pm. Visit our website for full details and to register. Walk-ins are accepted (with no lunch provided.) A heartfelt thank you to *USDF* for their generous support in making this clinic possible.

**In Hand Techniques with Patricia Norcia, August 2, 2025 at Idlenot Farm in Clinton, CT**

Contact Patricia Norcia  
pnorcia@mac.com or 860-391-2767 (cell)

A native of Rome, Italy, Patricia began early to follow her two passions: horses and theatre. A graduate of the Yale School of Drama, she spent 20 years working as a professional actress and director, while at the same time doing her dressage training in Spain with Luis Ramos Paul, head of the Andalusian School of Equestrian Arts. Currently based in Clinton, CT, she trains, competes and performs exhibitions with her PRE and Lusitano horses. Patricia is certified to the highest level by the American Riding Instructor Association and the British Horse Society. A major focus of her training program is groundwork techniques which she studied expensively with Luis Ramos Paul, Rodrigo Matos, Bettina Drummond and Miguel Anacoreta.

The clinic will begin with a demo of work in hand on short reins, long lines, and lunging techniques, followed by 45 minute lessons either on your own horse or one of her Iberians.

\$175.00 CDA member | \$190.00 non-member  
\$30.00 auditing fee CDA member | \$40.00 auditing fee non-members

Lisa Schmidt is a United States Equestrian Federation licensed "S" dressage judge with Young Horse, Dressage Seat Equitation and Musical Freestyle accreditation. She is an FEI dressage competitor and trainer at all levels. She has earned her USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals. Lisa is a member of the USDF L Program Faculty and has trained two 'r' judge's groups. From 2010 to 2016, Lisa was USDF Region 1 Director and a member of the USDF Executive Board. In addition to having completed the USDF Instructors Certification Workshops, Lisa has trained several horses through Grand Prix. She and her students have been successful at many regional championships.

**Ride/Critique/Ride clinic with Bobbi Carleton**

Our R-C-R clinic with Bobbie Carleton was a fantastic success.



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## This Edition's Member Profile is Carol DiCarlo

*Q: You have created a community-focused space where riders of all levels can be outfitted and accessorized beautifully. Tell us a bit more about your business.*



A: Cheshire Equestrian Center LLC is a premier retail center specializing in high-quality equestrian supplies and apparel. Since opening its doors on September 1, 2018, in the heart of Cheshire, CT, at 116 South Main Street, the business has built a reputation for its personalized, customer-focused service. Catering riders of all levels—from beginners taking their first lessons to seasoned professionals competing at the highest levels—our retail center provides expert guidance, premium products, and a tailored shopping experience.

I have decades of experience in the equestrian industry and aim to bring a deep understanding of the sport, its demands, and the unique needs of both horse and rider. This expertise, combined with a hands-on approach to customer service, ensures that every client receives personalized recommendations, professional fittings, and high-quality gear to enhance their riding performance and safety.

We offer a curated selection of top-tier European and U.S. brands, with a focus on quality, performance, and rider safety. Our services include:

- Helmet Fitting – Ensuring a proper fit for maximum safety and comfort.
- Custom Tall Boots & Show Apparel – Tailored for optimal performance and style.
- Premium Equestrian Gear & Accessories – Catering to all levels, from casual riders to competitive equestrians.
- Our commitment to exceptional customer service extends beyond retail transactions—we foster long-term relationships with our clients

*Q: What is your learning style and schooling philosophy?*

A: My learning style is visual. If someone shows me something and I replicate it; I retain it better. I believe your horse should be happy in his work and enjoy it. Balance the ring work with trail riding as well to break up the monotony of going in circles!

*Q: What has been your most memorable experience in dressage?*

A: One of my inspirations is Raphael Soto. He rode in the Olympics for Spain in Greece. I took lessons with him in Spain at Epona riding school. He didn't care what level you were and wanted you to feel the upper-level movements of dressage and show you how to execute them. He sat with us at the end and gave us a blow-by-blow description of what he was feeling during his Olympic ride in Greece while we watched it on TV. He truly loves his horses and want the best for them.



*Q: Who has been your most influential mentor?*

A: I have had many "most influential" mentors! I worked with Portuguese trainers that taught me classical methods of riding intertwined with

competitive riding. Enjoyed how much they love their horses and ride with such lightness and harmony. I was able to visit Master Nuno Olivero's stable when I did a training trip to Portugal.

Patricia Norcia introduced me to classical riding and training of the Iberian breed. I participated in breed shows and traveled abroad to Spain, Portugal, and Italy for training programs. We participated in a few Iberian baroque classes and exhibitions as well.

For competition; Jessica Rizzi has been great with training my PRE for competition and experience in the ring. He gets very tense in the ring and Jessie can ride him beautifully in the ring.

It has been a journey with my PRE because I bought him when he was six years old and had only the basics. Now he is nineteen and competing at FEI level with Jessie at the helm. I learned a lot having a horse that I was able to train and progress through the levels and know how difficult it is and rewarding at the same time!

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## Coming in the next CDA newsletter edition – *Listen to Me*

A play written by Gertrude Stein in 1936 adapted to include live horses bringing the scenes to life. Katheleen Turner stars as Gertrude Stein. Beautiful horse and rider costumes by Jillian Nielsen and actor costumes by James Glavan. Choreographed by our very own Patricia Norcia and directed by David Kaplan.



I hope everyone has had a good start to the summer show season, and that no one got frostbite at NEDA Spring. I hear it was a wee bit windy and chilly!

This is from Sarah Delahanty, Youth Manager for USDF: There are a couple youth programs that need your help for promotion. Please see below:

1. The Youth Volunteer of the Year – nominations are due by 8/31. <https://usdf.org/awards/service/youth-voy.asp>
2. USDF Nomination for USEF Youth Sportsman's Award - applications due 8/15. <https://usdf.org/awards/other-awards/youth-sportsman.asp>
3. Youth Convention Scholarship – applications due 8/31. <https://usdf.org/awards/other-awards/youth-convention-scholarship.asp>

Please spread the word and encourage our youth members to apply for the USDF Nomination for the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award and the Youth Scholarship.

Further, we need nominations for the Youth Volunteer of the Year by 8/31. Please reach out to your friends, colleagues, trainers, etc. and encourage their involvement. If you have any specific questions about any of these programs, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah at [sdelahanty@usdf.org](mailto:sdelahanty@usdf.org).

I am happy to announce that Allison King will be joining Bobbi Carleton as Chef d'Equipe for the NAYC. To make the Chef process for NAYC consistent across all disciplines, Chefs must be vetted by the USDF Executive Board and approved by the USEF. This will be the process going forward. We still have a good group of applicants – 1 Childrens, 4 Juniors, 4 Young Riders and 1 U25. Good luck to everyone as they go for their scores, qualification period ends June 18.

Also, on the topic of Youth, don't forget the FEI Youth Clinic with Sabine Schut-Kery coming up in October. Applications are open now and can be found here: <https://www.usdf.org/online-services/applications/youth-clinics.asp?type=fej>. The rider deadline to apply is August 22. **Auditors are welcome!**

As part of USDF's ongoing efforts to increase visibility of our information and content for our members, they have published the article "[How to Stay Connected to USDF](#)" on *YourDressage*. This article includes the information on how to move USDF content up in your news feeds/timelines, as well as additional information on staying connected and in touch with the organization.

**CDA is hosting Kathy Connelly July 17 and 18 at Sperry View Farm.**

The recognized show season has started, and the full schedule of regional shows can be found here:

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## General Announcements

### 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).

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

### Opportunity to 'Shadow' a Volunteer

– Ask Carol or Amy

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## USDF Region 8 News

### A Message from our Regional Director

**Greetings Region 8!**  
June 2025

<https://www.usdf.org/calendar/competitions.asp> (you must put in Region 8). As most of you probably already know, D4K has an excellent and far-reaching educational program. Here is the link to their calendar, <https://dressage4kids.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/04/05/d4k-up-at-tufts-equine-center/502387>.

Please forward me any information about show and clinic schedules and I will be sure to include it in my newsletters.

All the best,  
Helen  
vandeh13@gmail.com

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## CDA Membership for 2025!

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

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### CDA 2025 Omnibus

If you would like to purchase a print version of the CDA Omnibus, please reach out to Denise Clark at [deniseclark1211@gmail.com](mailto:deniseclark1211@gmail.com) to request one.

### CDA Sponsors – Connecticut Dressage Association (ctdressage.org)



#### **Vicki Hammers-O'Neil**

**FEI Trainer and USDF Instructor Certification Faculty Member**  
203-213-2798 • [fourtempis@aol.com](mailto:fourtempis@aol.com) • [www.vhodressage.com](http://www.vhodressage.com)

instruction that comes to you, with a focus on horse well-being and rider education  
lessons • all-day/partial-day clinics • coaching at shows • instructor certification prep

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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 2025 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 [rkhotshoe3@gmail.com](mailto:rkhotshoe3@gmail.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 80s and 90s. 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**

An 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.

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### 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** [Jessica.amber77@gmail.com](mailto:Jessica.amber77@gmail.com)

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## **2025 Calendar of Events**

Next CDA Board Meeting Monday, July 14, 2025  
– 6:00 PM At Fern Feldman's house  
OR Zoom Meeting will start at 6:30 pm  
Contact Fern Feldman | [fernfeldman@gmail.com](mailto:fernfeldman@gmail.com)

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

**\*\*Please note that we will have Western Dressage classes at our CDA sponsored shows. Western Dressage will be eligible for year end awards.**

### **CDA sponsored Shows**

#### **CDA @ Virtual Show #1**

Judges: Dressage Lori Barnard (S), Western Dressage: Joann Williams (R)  
**RESULTS BY CLASS**

#### **CDA @ Virtual Show #2**

##### **RESULTS BY CLASS**

Dressage Susanne Hamilton (S), Western Dressage: Joanne Coy (R)

#### **CDA @ Virtual Show #3**

Video due 6/15/2025, judging and results by 6/26/2025

[www.spotlighthorsheshows.com](http://www.spotlighthorsheshows.com) for prize list and entry

Judges: Dressage Anne Cizadlo (S), Western Dressage: Mary Mahler (R)

Saturday 5/3/2025 CDA @ Sperry View Farm  
Judge: Tara Manion "L" Graduate  
**RESULTS**

Sunday 6/22/2025 CDA @ Weatogue Stables  
Judge: Matthew Beasley "L" Graduate with Distinction  
<https://www.weatoguestables.com/services>  
**RESULTS**

Sunday 8/10/2025 CDA @ R Folly Farm  
(opening date: – closing date:)  
Judge: Karry Brothers "L" Graduate with Distinction.  
Please refer to Abacus Events prize list in CDA omnibus for more details

Sunday 9/7/2025 CDA @ Sperry View Farm  
(opening date: 8/16/25 – closing date: 8/30/25)  
Judge: Steve Ruggerio "L" Graduate with Distinction

Saturday 10/4/2025 CDA @ BelleFree Farm  
(opening date: 9/13/25 – closing date: 9/27/25)  
Judge: Virginia Leary "L" Graduate with Distinction