

# THE COLLECTION

IaDCTA Newsletter



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## Higher Education Equestrian Scholarships

High school seniors are encouraged to apply now for the 2024 Higher Education Equestrian Scholarships. US Equestrian is now accepting applications for the program, which provides five \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are committed to advancing their equestrian knowledge or skills while in college.

Applicants must be a current US Equestrian competing member or subscriber and be a graduating high school senior preparing to enter their freshman year of college in the fall of 2024. The scholarship is available to members from all US Equestrian-affiliated breeds and disciplines who will continue their involvement with horses or equestrian sports in college.

Continuing involvement may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- ✦ Equine-related degree program or classes
- ✦ Intercollegiate equestrian team or club
- ✦ Equestrian-related internships, jobs, or volunteer work

Scholarship funds will be issued directly to the recipients' educational institutions to be applied to their tuition costs.

The completed application, along with an essay and at least one reference from an individual within the horse industry, is due July 31, 2024. Direct any questions to Ashley Hudson at [ahudson@usef.org](mailto:ahudson@usef.org).

## Higher Education Equestrian Application

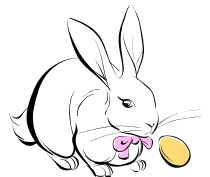
## Nominate Your Horse for Year End Awards

Don't forget to nominate your horse for the 2024 Year End Awards Program. We look forward to an active year of dressage and eventing.

There are only two steps to qualify for the IaDCTA Year End Awards.

First be a member! Second- nominate your horse before you start showing!

Log into the IaDCTA website [IaDCTA.org](http://IaDCTA.org) with your membership name and password. Then click the Nomination button at the top. You can nominate your horse in any of the disciplines listed- dressage, western dressage, sporthorse, or horse trials. Each nomination costs \$15. Scores can be easily submitted through an online portal beginning this summer. **PLEASE NOTE: You must nominate your horse prior to receiving a score that will be submitted for year end awards.**



## **Kim Gentry on-line live presentation for IaDCTA members is scheduled for May 20th Mark your calendars ! Info will be sent to members prior to the online presentation!**

A native of Sydney, Australia, Kim is an international Grand Prix dressage rider. In 2015 Kim and her horse, Leonardo, were named to the Australian Equestrian Team High Performance Squad for the Olympics and WEG for 2015-2020. The pair represented Australia in the CDIO3\* Nations Cup in 2015, 2016 and 2018 where the team earned a Bronze medal. They were Shadow Team members for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Kim is the founder and owner of Bits N' Such, her bit, bridle and saddle fitting business. She has become a nationally renowned bit and bridle fitter and often consults on bit designs with Herm Sprenger.

Kim is a USDF Certified Instructor through Fourth Level, a graduate with Distinction from the USDF "L" Program for Judge Training and a CLS 5\* rated trainer. Kim has earned her USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals on self trained horses and has a diverse riding background in eventing, show jumping and dressage. She even held an amateur flat and steeplechase racing license. Kim holds a Bachelor degree and an MBA. Her background prior to becoming a professional rider and trainer was in Brand Management and Marketing at an executive level at Kraft, Nabisco and International Paper.

In 2017, she started a bit and bridle consultation business and her fitting clinics are in high demand throughout the US. She has successfully combined the technical aspects of bit fitting with her teaching and training skills which make her clinics extremely popular and unique. Kim has now grown her business also into a successful saddle fitting business.

If you attended the **Matt McLaughlin** clinic you might have heard him talking about Kim. He thinks she is the best bit fitter he has ever seen and if he could, he would follow her for a week to learn more.

# Annual Banquet, Awards, & Election Results

We celebrated the 2023 season in January at the Annual Awards Banquet. Forty-three members and guests enjoyed the afternoon at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club. Our speaker this year, MaryJo Hoepner, was a charter member of IaDCTA! MaryJo is out in Colorado now, an active member and leader in the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society. Alex Novotny Pasker had the pleasure of attending the L education program in Colorado sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society, and was delighted to meet one of our founding members! MaryJo graciously agreed to join us for a virtual presentation about the benefits of the L program, and especially how L education can benefit all of us, not just aspiring judges.

Our 43 members attending the banquet and were able to raise \$929 with the silent auction. Thank you so much for everyone who participated. Congratulations to our 2023 awards winners. You can find the list of awards and photos from the banquet on the IaDCTA WEB SITE as well.

As we look forward to the 2024 season, I want to encourage everyone to contact me or our other officers and board members with questions or suggestions.

Rhea Allen, IaDCTA President

## 2023 Year End Awards (FINAL)

### Intro Walk Trot

#### Adult Amateur

1. Tobi Sharon and Azora
2. Carol Linnan and Apollo 11
3. Shannon Duffy and Witch Doctor
4. Tom Koehler and Oh Cleopatra

#### Open

1. Daniele Kalsem and Rori
2. Lisa King and Paluose 2

### Intro

#### Adult Amateur

1. LeAnn Nelson and Arthur
2. Sharon Grief and Raja Mazarado

#### Young Rider

1. Bryanna Kalsem and Scottish Fox

#### Open

1. Lisa King and Just Plain Nuts
2. Jamie Westrum and Windsor's Mishka May
3. Daniele Kalsem and Vixen



*Jamie Iles Westrum, Carol Linnan, Lisa King, Shannon Duffy, Bryanna Kalsem, and LeAnn Nelson*

### Eventing Training

#### Adult Amateur

1. Elizabeth Sauter McLain The Flying Iris

### SportHorse

#### Adult Amateur

1. LeAnn Nelson and Arthur
2. LeAnn Nelson and Love Once

#### Young Rider

1. Bryanna Kalsem and CR MacCool Robin
2. Bryanna Kalsem and CR Man I'm MacCool
3. Bryanna Kalsem and CR MacCools Gold



*Molly Foley-Severn*

### Amateur Handler

#### Adult Amateur

1. LeAnn Nelson and Love Once
2. LeAnn Nelson and Arthur

### English/Western Equitation

1. Adalynn Nelson
2. PJ Koehler

### Western Intro

#### Young Rider

1. Sophia Erickson and Hocus Pocus

### Western Basic

#### Junior

1. Jackson Williams and Atlas



*Jamie Iles Westrum, Carol Linnan, Lisa King, Shannon Duffy, Bryanna Kalsem, LeAnn Nelson, Tobi Sharon, and Danielle Kalsem*

**Training**

**Adult Amateur**

1. Kaelin Schildmier and Saffire Star
2. Shannon Soot and Horizon

**Junior**

1. Adalyn Nelson and Blue Imprint

**Open**

1. Michelle Kalsem and Mi Fionn MacCool
2. Lisa King and Just Plain Nuts

**First Level**

**Adult Amateur**

1. Natalie Tomaras and Zevadora

**Junior**

1. Adalynn Nelson and Blue Imprint

**Second Level**

**Adult Amateur**

1. Leslie Mac Bride and Fritz NHH
2. Molly Foley Severn and Remington

**Musical Freestyle**

1. Molly Foley Severn and Remington
2. Leslie MacBride and Fritz NHH
3. David Law and Jake
4. PJ Koehler and This Magic Moment

**Rider Awards**

**Medals**

Adalynn Nelson Training, silver  
First, bronze

Jamie Westrum Intro, Gold

Mollie Foley Severn First, gold  
Second, bronze  
Second, Silver

Leslie MacBride Second, Silver

Shannon Duffy Walk Trot, bronze  
Walk Trot, silver

Danielle Kalsem Intro, Silver

Kaelin Schildmier First, Silver

Carol Linnan Walk Trot, Gold

**75% Club**

Jamie Westrum Walk Trot  
Molly Foley Severn 1st level freestyle  
Tom Koehler WDAA Intro  
David Law Freestyle

High Point: Kaelin Schildmier and Saffire Star  
Training level average qualifying score



*Lisa King and Michelle Kalsem*



*Tammy Lisi and PJ Koehler*



*PJ Koehler*



*Tom Koehler, Molly Foley-Severn, and Jamie Iles-Westrum*



*Bryanna Kalsem*



*Sophia Erickson*



*Danielle Kalsem, Shannon Duffy, Molly Foley-Severn, Jamie Iles-Westrum, Tammy Lisi, and Carol Linnan*



*Lizzie Sauter-McClain*



*LeAnn Nelson*



*Natalie Tomaras*

# 2024 Adequan USDF FEI Level Trainers Conference

Notes by and used with permission of  
Lucille M. Sullivan of Navillus Dressage  
and Sport Horses

2024 Adequan/USDF FEI-Level Trainers Conference  
High Meadow Farm, Loxahatchee, FL  
Presenters: Sven Rothenberger & Sabine Schut-Kery  
Moderator: Lilo Fore

Each of these horses was showing at the PSG or higher level, yet most of the work was focused on the basics of the training scale  
Rhythm, Suppleness, Contact, Impulsion, Straightness,  
Collection

Sabine Schut-Kery:

- Use every corner to check your balance
- Focus on getting a better reaction so that you can ride from ***your calf not your heel***. The horse must give you the rib cage
- Use your walk breaks to work on what they are struggling with, for example lateral stiffness
- He is not quite forward because he is stiff
- Pay attention to the little things. ***Have high standards for your position***. Drawn-up heels disconnect the seat from the horse's back
- Teach your horse that ***forward is a lifestyle***
- Really ride toward your hand – 80% turn with your leg & seat
- When you close your leg & he leaves you (comes above the contact) you know you have a connection issue
- Trot – half steps – trot. Improves longitudinal suppleness so he lets you in. Trot out in shoulder fore if he tries to pull out from the shoulders. You have to trot out easy so that you can develop passage afterwards.
- Half-steps need the proper relationship between pushing and carrying power. The evidence is being able to go in and out.
- Ride the half-pass from the inner leg to get the ribs elastic. If you truly have bend on the half-pass it will not be a problem to go straight
- The canter to trot transition test if the horses are in front of the leg. ***You have to ride every transition for an 8 or more.***



- Stretching has to be productive – forward and down.  
Forward stretches the nuchal ligament. If the stretch is incorrect start over, inch by inch over 2-3 months, it must be controlled by your leg
- Flying changes – when you put your leg on the reaction needs to be that they reach under and forward with the hind leg – if not the change will be short behind
- Flying changes – Aids have to be quiet, your legs cannot flop around so that they do not understand what you are asking

Sven Rothenberger:

- Come out of the corner and do the flying change early so that you do not lose the quality of the canter. **Choose quality before exacting then exacting will come.**
- Horses loose rhythm when they are no longer active.
- You can train almost everything in walk
- Do everything you do **CORRECT!**
- Activity is dressage riding
- The basis for everything in the PSG is the shoulder-in
- A 6 or 7-year-old good horse can do PSG if you have systematic development of the. Horse
- The flying change is an important point for the PSG. There are a lot of them. The changes have to be on the aids and uphill
- Why short in the neck or a little behind the vertical? A problem of engagement. Look at the core, can they carry the weight of the rider?
- The horse has to relax in the environment he is in, not that you ride him until he is tired. **Learn to build his confidence**
- If your horse is not jumping in the half-pass to back to shoulder-in. Half-pass to shoulder-in to half-pass. Look up in the half pass so that they lift their shoulders
- Ride for an 8 – **Be conscientious and disciplined in your riding**
- Walk half-pass to canter half-pass to walk half-pass teaches the horse to sit

## Board Members for 2024

**Rhea Allen** President

[cello2002@hotmail.com](mailto:cello2002@hotmail.com)

**Derith Vogt** VP

**Nena Denman** Treasurer

**Carmen Pierce** Secretary

**David Law**

**Tobi Sharon**

**Lisa Grove**

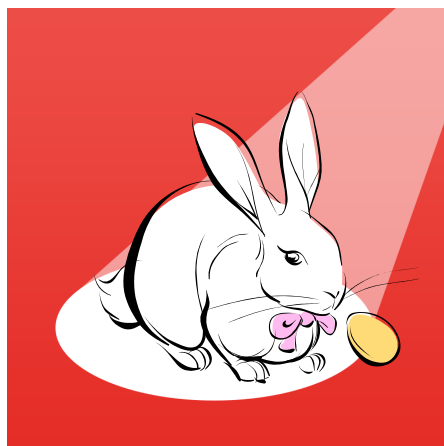
**Amanda Steffen**

**Alex Novotny-Pasker**

**Kaelin Schildmier**



# Member Spotlight on Julie Kuhle



Spouse: Roger Grown kids/stepkids: 4 Grandkids: 7  
Horses: Rion and Griff Dogs: Betty and Jazz Cat: Porch Cat

I'd like this Spotlight to shine on all the teachers who have guided my passion and made me a better rider. There are too many to list. Some are no longer living and some continue to improve my riding (thanks Meaghan Marinovich Burdick and Maggie Mosman).

Some are so good at ingraining an important message that I can hear their voice in my ear years after the lesson ended (thanks Melinda Antisdell).

Recently I was with friends in Aiken having a full horse immersion weekend. Often our discussions would center around what a clinician/coach/teacher had said, or done, or taught or emphasized. We talked about key takeaways from these instructors that changed our riding or inspired us to be better. Throughout the weekend, over and over, someone would mention another coaching tidbit. We all felt the same - riding instructors have a huge impact on our lives and we value their lessons.



*Aiken immersion ... Lizzie Sauter-McClain, Brit Vegas, Alex Novotny\_Pasker, Mary Curran, and Julie Kuhle*

Like many of you, my love of horses goes back to my earliest recollections. My first pony, Tony, was a birthday present when I turned 7. He was not handsome - with a horse sized head and a pony shaped body - but he was mine.



*Julie and her very first equine partner, Tony the Pony*

My riding life changed forever when I wrote a letter to Sally Simmons in Cedar Rapids who started the Beaver Dam Riding School and Pony Club. Her students took English lessons at Upmier Farm and I became her student.

I didn't ride or own horses for 16 years while raising two wonderful sons. Once my oldest turned 16 and could drive, I bought an OTTB, Tucker, who spent the next 25 years with me. Since then, much of my life revolves around riding, eventing, and dressage.



. There have been highs - a silver platter for an equitation win in 1967 (Exodus) and many memorable events including a big red ribbon at the American Eventing Championships in Colorado in 2018 (Orion).



*Julie and Orion at 2018 American Eventing Championships at Colorado Horse Park*



*Dressage Phase*



*Cross Country Phase*



*Stadium Jumping Phase*



*Julie on Orion with Instructor extraordinaire Meaghan Marinovich-Burdick and Julie's husband Roger Kuhle*



To be real, there also were lows – too many falls to count and the losses of some beloved animals. Regardless of the ups and downs, I love the journey of learning with my horse: being taught something new, mastering something you were sure you could not do, or finally just “getting it”. At the center of this journey of learning are riding instructors.

Love of horses and riding has brought me lifelong friends that I treasure just as much as the horses. My learning continues and I am so grateful for every one of those teachers who has touched my life. If I could have one more lesson with Sally Simmons, I would spend the entire time thanking her for what she did for this horse crazy girl. Who would you thank?

## Lisbon and Lusitanos– by Nena Denman

There are four prestigious riding academies that focus on the preservation of classical Baroque equestrian art. Three of them are the Cadre Noir in Saumur, France; the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, Austria; and the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain. The fourth and smallest is the Portuguese School of the Equestrian Art in Sintra, Portugal. In Portuguese the name is “A Escola Portuguesa de Arte Equestre (EPAE)”. I have been fortunate in the past to have visited the Cadre Noir and Spanish Riding School. Recently, during a tour of Portugal, I was able to venture away from the planned itinerary and seek out equine venues near Lisbon. Fortunately, I was able to attend training sessions in Sintra.

The Portuguese School of the Equestrian Art’s main training and performance stable is located near Belem, a suburb of Lisbon. It is a short cab ride from the touristy area of the Avenida da Liberdade, the main artery of the city of Lisbon. One can also get there cheaper on a 40-minute bus ride with several transfers. Both are easy for an adventurous tourist to manage.

*Queluz National Palace  
which houses the Riding  
Academy. In Sintra , Great-  
er Lisbon area of Portugal  
Photo by Husond*



The school was originally named the Picaria Real or Royal Academy and was founded by King John V in 1748. His wife was Maria Anna of Austria. She was accustomed to seeing the Lipizzaner horses at the court in Vienna and wanted to establish the The new EPAE was recreated by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1979. Preserving the traditions and customs of the Portuguese court in the XVIII century, the riders and trainers at the EPAE school stallions of the iconic national breed, the Lusitano, in classic dressage. This includes movements such as half-pass, piaffe, passage, canter pirouettes, and tempi changes. Training occurs daily, but spectating is only allowed several days a week. Photographs may be taken everywhere on the grounds but in the formal performance arena. Shows there are scheduled at various times during the month. Equestrian games of the royal court are also included in the performances. In addition, time is devoted to the haute ecole, or airs above the ground, such as levade, courbette, and capriole. This aids horses and rider to achieve a high degree of collection, which many German riding horses do not develop. Workshops at the school for interested equestrians are offered during the year.

Many riders go on to become top international riders in dressage and equitation. Representing Portugal at the Olympic games and winning international titles include the riders Daniel Pinto, Migual Ralao, Goncalo Carvalho, Pedro Torres, and Nuno Palma. Once offered the post of director of the school, Nuno Oliveira was a well-known trainer and instructor.

I spent several hours at training center and stables. The gates opened at 10 A.M. Horses were lunged and longlined in the covered training arena by handlers dressed in traditional court uniforms that included tricorn hats.



*Training in the outdoor*



*Two Lusitanos horses used for demonstrations at  
the Riding Academy*



Horses were then taken across the street to practice in the performance arena. There, I was able to observe the routines of both individual horses and eight mounts in unison. Although I was tempted, I followed the rules and did not take pictures. I was able to meet other equestrian devotees in the bleachers from several countries. Many spoke English. I spoke a little Spanish, so we enjoyed light conversation.

The performance area was well organized. Comfortable seating was tiered at the short ends and along one side. There was a gift shop, and I bought a polo shirt with the school emblem. Regretfully, I had to leave at 1:30 when the training period was over. But there were more equestrian venues nearby to visit.

In addition to the school, the government has developed the National Coach Museum a short distance from the EPEA. The Coach Museum houses priceless coaches from the royal houses of Portugal as well as examples of commonly used equestrian vehicles. The elegant coaches are large and ornate, often gilded with gold, and decorated with exquisite paintings. The daily-life carriages include cabriolets, governess carts, stagecoaches, and firefighting wagons. The modern building includes gift and coffee shops. Across the street, additional elegant coaches can be found in the original royal riding hall. This enclosed arena has spectacular frescoes and paintings of the monarchs. Both buildings are worthy of a visit.



*National Coach Museum  
Royal Riding Hall*

To further an equestrian visit, there are several more options. A second training stable is located at the beautiful National Palace in Queluz. The palace is also home to the state Library of Equestrian Art. In addition, one can travel about 2 hours by car and visit the Royal Stud Farm of Alter, the Coudelaria de Alter, in Alter do Chao, Portugal. The Alter Lusitano blood-line bred there is the oldest and features characteristic bay horses. Too soon, I ran out of time so was unable to get to those places. I will have to return to Lisbon in the future! Hopefully, now that you know more about what is available for equestrian aficionados in Portugal, you may plan a more complete visit.

To learn more and see photographs of the horses and venues, you may visit the following sites.

[Alterreal.pt](http://Alterreal.pt)

[Mariacooke.com](http://Mariacooke.com)

[Parquesdesintra.pt](http://Parquesdesintra.pt)

[Portuguese School of Equestrian Art](#)



*Lusitano in four year old class at the fair in Golegã  
Portugal Sheepskin behind saddle is known as a  
Xairel and is used for an second passenger*

# IN OTHER NEWS

MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT THIS WINTER AND SPRING



Alex Novotney Pasker & Amanda Steffen at Full Gallop in Aiken



Kelli Rose Brown at Stbleview in Aiken



Carol Linnan and Apollo



Meaghan Marinovick-Burdick and HMS Bitcoin akaSLenny at Pine Top



Evan Fleck on Ari at Powder River Ranch



Leann Nelson on Aurthur



Melinda Antisdel caught the big one!



Tammy Lisi enjoying our unseasonably warm February



Tempi and Hannah Jungling and Derith Vogt enjoying Aiken



Mary Curran sporting her Iowa t-shirt on Hendrix with the Aiken Hounds



Molly Foley-Severn and Remington at USDF Nationals



Meaghan Marinovick-Burdick and Ava on Lenny at Pine Top pc Brit Vegas



Meaghan Marinovick-Burdick and Lenny at Pine Top



Kaelin Schildmier's William in Ocala



Excellent start to the season for William and Kaelin



Derith Vogt at Amy Mc Elroy's doing what she does....



Lizzie Sauter-McClain and Iris at Powder River Ranch



Alex Novotny-Pasker, Julie Kuhl, Martha Wick, Chris Heydon, Mary Curran and Lizzie Sauter-McClain



Alex Novotny-Pasker on Zelda



Lizzie Sauter-McClain, Julie Kuhl, and Mary Curran

# Matt McLaughlin Clinic and Tamarack Spring Schooling Show



Julie Bloom auditing McLaughlin clinic



Karen Bright on Chapiro



Grace Stodola on Dublin's River Dance



Peyton Burch on Miss



Jenna Lovett on Easton



Katie Hall on Irish Gypsy Doc



Carolyn Woodring on Pool Boy



Sophia Erickson on Hocus Pocus



Carmen Pierce and Sergeant Grande



Tammy Lisi on Bragi



PJ Koehler and Nena Denman



Jackson Williams on Atlas



Ashly Ward on Warwick



## How to hold double bridle reins...



Matt McLaughlin clinician with opinions on holding your reins with a double bridle [Ctl click link above](#)

## Ask the Judge Questions about Dressage with Amy McElroy



Amy McElroy is an FEI competitor, and a USEF S judge. She is qualified to officiate at any USEF recognized national show at all dressage levels. She rides, trains and teaches at Fair Lane Farm in Aiken and judges between 15 and 20 dressage and eventing shows each year.

Dear Amy,

I recently imported an FEI dressage horse from Holland. I am planning to compete with him starting at Prix St. Georges this season in Aiken. I have competed at dressage shows in the past but never at this level, or done any upper level tests. I have a few questions I am curious about, and I have asked around but gotten mixed answers. So here you go! A big concern is that I will not be able to remember these long tests. Is it too embarrassing to have a caller at this level? Are there any restrictions on equipment and attire at these levels? I heard spurs are no longer required? Finally, is the passport my horse traveled with from Europe sufficient for competing? All advice is greatly appreciated.

*Upper Level Novice*

Dear Upper Level,

How exciting and congratulations on the purchase of your new horse. Rules can be confusing and can often change so it is wise to be current on the latest information. All your questions are interesting and the answers are important to know.

Let's start with your first question in regards to having your Prix St Georges (PSG) test called for you while you ride; it can be intimidating to memorize such long tests. In the National levels (Training to Fourth level) all riders have the option to have their test movements announced so they can have less worry about forgetting what to do next. Prix St. Georges, however, is a Federation International Equestre (FEI) level test, and the rules for the FEI are different. Although I don't think it would be embarrassing to have an FEI test read for you, it is illegal at these levels, so you must perform the ride by memory only.

Here are some suggestions to help you gain confidence in memorizing. At home, practice your test with a caller until you can perform it successfully. It can also be helpful to draw the test on paper and go over the movements in your head, or to do your test on foot, or even mounted at the walk – whatever works best for you to find your way. On a good note, I rarely see riders go off-course at the PSG level. If you did go off course, you would receive an error. As in the lower-level tests you would be corrected and allowed to continue your ride. What is different, however, is how many errors you are permitted, and how they factor into your score at this level. At the National level, you are allowed two errors but are eliminated if you have a third one. In the FEI tests you would be eliminated if you had a second error. In the National level, an error would subtract two points from your final raw score. For example, if you earned 240 points and had one error, two points would be taken away for a total of 238 points, and your final percentage would be calculated from that number. (So if, for instance, your test had 360 maximum points, your final score would drop from 66.7 to 66.1.) In the FEI, an error is a lot more costly. Here you would have two full points taken off your final percentage score. For example, if you earned 60%, your score would adjust down to 58%. Therefore, knowing your test is imperative!



When it comes to attire and equipment, there are many significant rules to be aware of. If you are competing in Aiken, although you would be riding FEI-level tests you would be competing under USEF rules, not FEI rules.

The FEI rules only apply to official Concours de Dressage International (CDI) competitions. At this time, Aiken does not yet have any CDI dressage competitions, so for now, you would be following the rules for FEI tests at a National show.

Here are the dress rules for riding PSG and above. It is mandatory to wear protective headgear with a secure harness. Although I have rarely seen it, a short riding coat or cutaway, modified tailcoat is permitted. A tailcoat is only allowed in classes above Fourth level. Be sure your jacket is of a single color. It may have subtle pin-stripping, checks, or tweeds. Stripes or multi-colors are not permitted. Tasteful and discreet accents, including modest piping and crystals are acceptable. When competing above Fourth level, tall English-style riding boots, including dress or field boots or variations thereof, are required. There are also guidelines now for gloves. At these levels gloves are required – this is a new rule for 2024! The gloves may be white, off white, or the same color as your coat. The rumor you heard about spurs not being required for FEI is true except that at this time it only applies to CDI competitions. At National level shows, spurs are still mandatory in FEI level tests.

There are a few equipment requirements when competing above Fourth level. It is now compulsory to use a well-fitted dressage saddle that is close to your horse with long, near vertical flaps, stirrups, and a girth. As far as bridles go, you may use a snaffle bridle or double bridle in competition as well as in the warmup.

On your scoresheet, you will see a major difference in the collective marks at this level. Previously, you had five collective marks to sum up your test. Now there will be only one final mark. The final collective mark is called General Impressions. This encompasses the harmonious presentation of the rider/horse combination, the rider's position and seat, and the discreet and effective influence of the aids. This score has a coefficient of two, meaning it is worth double points. It is a reflection of your ride and will be similar to your final percentage. Finally, let's discuss the passport. At this time, you will not be required to present or have any passport for your horse when competing at a National level show even if you are competing in an FEI test. This would be different for CDIs where a passport would be required.

I hope I have given you some insight. The USEF 2024 rulebook is available as a resource, and I always recommend reading it. If you have questions when you are at the show, the competition's Technical Delegate (TD), can help you clarify a rule.

Enjoy this new journey, and tests, put on your tailcoat (if you choose), wear a big smile, and dance away.

*Amy McElroy*



# Dressage4kids Christian Kennedy/Unicorn Scholarship

by Adalynn Nelson



*Dressage 4 Kids group*

I was honored to receive the Dressage4kids Christian Kennedy/ Unicorn Scholarship this year. The purpose of the scholarship is to give a young rider from Iowa the opportunity to experience Wellington and all that it has to offer. It includes auditing the Dressage4Kids Winter Intensive Training program led by Lendon Gray.



*Adalynn with Anne Baber Wallis and Joey*

In January I took my first trip down to Wellington. During my time in Wellington, I was able to observe the Dressage4kids WIT program. I spent the mornings watching lessons taught by Lendon Gray and a D4K schooling show. I enjoyed watching the different levels of riders and getting to know all the WIT participants. The program consists of full days of training, chores, lectures, fitness, and educational opportunities.



*Adalynn with Laura Ashley and Aldor*

I was able to get some riding lessons during the week. I rode with Laura Ashley and loved riding her young 4-year-old horse Aldor. We worked on balance and transitions.

Anne Barber Wallis was generous enough to let me take a lesson on her beloved Joey with trainer David De Wispelaere. David focuses on classical dressage training, and I enjoyed learning from his approach. I ended my trip riding with trainer Jane Hannigan. I had a blast playing around with tempis on her stallion Snow.



*Adalynn Jane Hannigan and fellow student  
Nash Gagnor and Snow*

It was a privilege to attend the two-day USDF Trainers Conference. I got to watch Olympic rider Sabine Schut-Kery and Sven Rothenberger teach. I learned no matter how high of a level you ride the basics are still the most important. One of my favorite lessons to watch was one that focused on relaxation.

Dressage4kids hosted a wonderful Training4Teaching Panel Discussion that I attended that focused on coaching riders of all levels in competition. I enjoyed listening to the panelists on their experiences from coaching juniors, adults, professionals, and para riders.

It would not be a trip to Wellington if I didn't attend Friday Night Stars featuring Grand Prix musical freestyles. It was amazing watching the talented riders and horses flow to the music in the show ring. I even got to witness the rides of potential 2024 Olympic candidates. Friday Night Stars was a huge highlight of the trip. I also got to experience Saturday Night Lights which showcases Grand Prix jumping. The fast past environment of show jumping was exciting to watch.



*At Friday Night Stars*

Wellington is truly a magical place. I loved being surrounded by beautiful horse properties and a town revolving around horses. I am so grateful for Dressage4kids in providing me the opportunity to experience Wellington and build new relationships. I look forward to returning to Wellington in the future.



# SAVE THE DATES !

IaDCTA Spring Ahead Show to be held at Middle River Ranch

April 20, 2024

## APRIL

20 IaDCTA Show **dressage** MRR [IaDCTA.org](http://IaDCTA.org)

Winterset

## MAY

5 LRE Spring Eventing Show **eventing** [lreventing01@gmail.com](mailto:lreventing01@gmail.com)

Leighton

## JUNE

2 Tamarack Schooling and Show **dressage** Greenbriar <https://tamarackstablesiowa.com>

Springville

8-9 Maffitt Lake Fantasy Show **dressage** MLEC, <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

Cumming

15-16 Maffitt Lake Classic I&II **dressage** MLEC, <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

Cumming

## JULY

14 Tamarack Schooling and Show **dressage** Greenbriar <https://tamarackstablesiowa.com>

Springville

20-21 Maffitt Lake Fantasy Show **dressage** MLEC, <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

Cumming

21 BCF School and Show **eventing** [Bent Creek Farm | Facebook](#)

Solon

27-28 Two Rivers Dressage Classic **dressage** MLEC, <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

Cumming

## AUGUST

3 Catalpa Corner Charity HT **eventing** CCCHT, <http://www.catalpacorner.org>

Iowa City

31-4 Maffitt Lake Fantasy Show **dressage** MLEC, <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

Cumming

## SEPTEMBER

20-22 Tamarack and IaDCTA **dress** IEC <https://tamarackstablesiowa.com>

Schooling & Championship Show Cedar Rapids

21-22 Maffitt Lake Fantasy Show **dressage** MLEC, <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

Cumming

## OCTOBER

13 BCF School and Show **eventing** [Bent Creek Farm | Facebook](#)

Solon

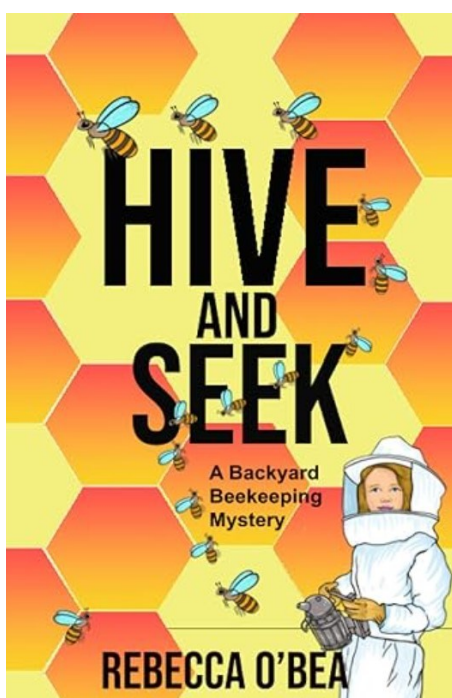
Please note that Maffitt Lake Fantasy Show dates have changed.



# Hive and Seek– Backyard Beekeeping Mystery Series by Becky O’Bea

A book review by Rhea Allen

Most of us have the autograph of author Rebecca O’Bea in our archives somewhere – but probably on a dressage test! Who knew that our acclaimed dressage judge and teacher is also an accomplished writer, blogger, and author? Becky recently published “Hive and Seek,” the first installment in her “Backyard Beekeeping Mysteries” series. This fast-paced whodunit combines Becky’s skill for writing with another of her passions – beekeeping. The story is told from the point of view of Indigo (“Indie”) Bleu Evans. Indie’s life has been thrown into a tailspin when she is accused of academic misconduct, leading to the rejection of her graduate thesis regarding the effect of pesticides on pollinators. Still reeling from this assault on her academic reputation, she finds her hives vandalized and the body of Professor Fontenoy, the head of the Science Department of Collette University, nearby. Indie realizes that she will immediately be a suspect, her academic career in ruins as a result of the allegations of plagiarizing data. The email from the thesis committee burned in her mind: “Upon preliminary review, Dr. Robert Fontenoy, Department Chair and doctoral committee chair, rejects the analysis of glyphosate and its effect on the gut microbiota of the honeybee.” Indie is determined to prove her innocence by finding the real murderer. Could it be the CEO of Agro-Tech Industries trying to avoid bad press because her research data raises concerns about the environmental effects of the company’s promising new product? Could it be her ex-lover, Associate Professor Alex Carmicheal, who headed up a million dollar grant to the university, funded by Agro-Tech? Indie’s investigation is filled with twists and turns. The handsome local sheriff threatens to lock her up, if not for interfering with his investigation, then maybe for her own safety. Things get more dangerous, with an assault on her beekeeping mentor, Karl, during a break in at his honey storage room. Some raccoons are found poisoned by chemical run-off. When Indie eventually solves the case, the young sheriff points out that she could have easily gotten herself killed. Finally, they agree that solving the case may have been a collaborative effort, but Sean the sheriff, smiling, says “But I don’t want you getting the idea that you’re some kind of trained detective of anything.” Indie: “Oh believe me, I don’t think that. Uh-uh, not at all. (But, just in case, I cross my fingers behind my back on both hands.” Look for further adventures as the second installment in the Backyard Beekeeping Mysteries scheduled to release soon to Kindle



Available through Amazon Books used from \$14.23- \$17.99 and Barnes and Noble, Hardcover \$23.49. Costs estimated and may change.

# In Memorium Rest Well Courageous Comet

Becky Holder said goodbye to "Comet" on Feb. 8 at her Windhaven Farm in Wadesboro, North Carolina. He was 28.

Becky was an area IV event rider and trainer. Before moving to North Carolina, she was based out of Carriage House Farm in Hugo MN. She was the trainer I sent my home bred Emily to to get her opinion on Emily moving up to the Intermediate level. It was always such fun to watch Becky and Comet compete at Otter Creek Horse Trials and Rolex over the years.

"Comet epitomized the rags to riches story line, and his Thoroughbred enthusiasts cheered him on everywhere he went," shared Becky. "But it's the things not in the public eye that I want to share and give thanks for. He loved turnout. He nickered more loudly for it than any meal or treat. When in England, [his groom] Aubrey Dunkerton would take him on luxurious grazes and often would get stuck out in the field when he refused to return to the barn.

"He often walked briskly out to work, excited for the day's adventures and then drug his feet coming home, taking any chance to divert back out for a little longer. Whenever I was in the barn, he tracked me and watched me intensely. Every time I picked up the trot on him, I smiled."

Holder and Comet began their career together in 2002 and spent a decade competing at the Advanced and four-star (now five-star) level together. Their career accomplishments include placing second at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event in 2008, coming in third at the same event in 2010, and later winning the Adequan USEA Gold Cup Series at the 2010 USEA American Eventing Championships (Fairburn, Georgia). They finished the Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials (England) in 15th place in 2006. The pair also represented the U.S. at both the 2008 Olympic Games (Hong Kong) and the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Kentucky.



*Becky Holder and Courageous Comet  
at Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event  
PC Derith Vogt*



## Betsy Coester Grant There is a often overlooked and underutilized IaDCTA Membership benefit right there on page 15 of the [IaDCTA Member Handbook](#)

To apply for a Betsy Coester Fund grant, a member must submit an application, including information describing the activity, experiences of the applicant, and goals to be reached. ● The application must be received prior to the Board meeting preceding the event for which the grant is being requested. Awards will not be given retroactively for past events. ● The number of awards given in a particular year will depend on the level of funds available in the Betsy Coester Fund. ● Awards will be an amount to cover tuition for up to one half (1/2) of the cost of a clinic ride, workshop, or other educational event with no single award exceeding \$200 depending on a board decision ● All IaDCTA members are eligible to receive grant funds with a membership requirement of at least two years. ● No member shall receive Grant funds in consecutive years. ● Current members, not meeting the minimum volunteer requirement for the previous year, will not be considered for a grant. ● Grant recipients are REQUIRED to submit an photograph and complete a questionnaire for the Collection newsletter or website about the event for which the grant was given. **The grant money will not be given until this requirement has been fulfilled.**

After reviewing each grant application, the IaDCTA Board of Directors will decide if and for what amount a particular grant will be given, and will notify the applicant following its decision. The BOD will consider the following criteria in making its decision:

- Volunteer commitment and support of club events such as clinics, competitions, board meetings and other venues in the past/present years
- Number of members applying for a given program/clinic
- The monetary amount available in the Betsy Coester Grant fund
- Previously awarded grants to an applicant .

# Treasurer's Report

<b>February 2024</b>			
<b>Beginning Checking Acct Bal.</b>	<b>\$18,780.75</b>		
<b>CREDITS:</b>	<b>This period:</b>	<b>Prior period</b>	<b>Total To Date</b>
Horse Nominations - Cash	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Membership Dues - Cash	\$0.00	\$645.00	\$645.00
Horse Nomination - PayPal	\$34.00	\$76.04	\$110.04
Membership - PayPal	\$180.00	\$250	\$430.46
<u>Sponsorships</u>	\$0.00	\$35	\$35.00
Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$929.48	\$929.48
Award Fund - Raffle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Annual Banquet	\$0.00	\$1,613.36	\$1,613.36
Show	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Clinic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. Advertising/Arena Rental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. interest CDs	\$37.29	\$37.29	\$74.58
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>\$251.29</b>	<b>\$3,786.63</b>	<b>\$4,037.92</b>
<b>DEBITS:</b>			
Operations: Printing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Banquet DMGCC	\$0.00	-\$2,180.32	-\$2,180.32
Website Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Banquet Misc.	\$0.00	-\$58.03	-\$58.03
Awards/Ribbons	-\$317.49	\$0.00	-\$317.49
Education - Clinic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shows	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership dues-USDF	-\$394.00	-\$144.00	-\$538.00
Conference, Convention, Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. - office supplies/License	\$0.00	-\$32.05	-\$32.05
<b>TOTAL DEBITS</b>	<b>-\$711.49</b>	<b>-\$2,414.40</b>	<b>-\$3,125.89</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-\$460.20</b>	<b>\$1,372.23</b>	<b>\$7,163.81</b>
<b>RESERVES/DESIGNATIONS:</b>			
Betsy Coester Grant	\$0.00	\$734.80	\$734.80
Clinic/Educ/Con/Trophies	\$0.00	\$132.08	\$132.08
ITBOA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL RESERVES/DESIGNATIONS</b>			<b>\$866.88</b>

<b>SAVINGS</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,203.48</b>	<b>\$2,203.48</b>
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Checking Acct Balance- current	<b>\$18,320.55</b>		
Total Reserves/Designations	<b>\$866.88</b>		
Outstanding Debits	<b>\$192.00</b>		
Daily Operating Balance	<b>\$17,261.67</b>		
Checking			\$18,320.55
Certificate of Deposit	\$0.00	\$10,931.73	\$10,931.73
Savings	\$0.00	2,203.48	\$2,203.48
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>			<b>\$31,455.76</b>



The "Lyns" Adalynn Nelson and Carolyn Woodring

IaDCTA is a USDF Group Member Organization (GMO), and all members are automatically USDF Group Members (GMs). For USDF Participating Membership, members must apply directly to USDF. We're Online: [www.iadcta.org](http://www.iadcta.org) or visit our Facebook page

# OUR MEMBERS SERVICES



Steffen Veterinary Services (SVS) Chiropractic Care offers veterinary chiropractic care to both large and small animals throughout the state of Iowa. Contact Dr. Amanda Steffen at 515-729-0271 or [dvmsteffen@gmail.com](mailto:dvmsteffen@gmail.com) for additional information or to schedule an appointment.



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# CAROL LINNAN

RIDESUM AMBASSADOR

For more information or to schedule a session or event contact:

 515-480-8034

 [clinnan@msn.com](mailto:clinnan@msn.com)

 [www.ridesum.com](http://www.ridesum.com)



## 2024 Schooling Show Series Dates

- March 15-17 Iowa Equestrian Center (Kirkwood Cedar Rapids, IA)
- June 2 Greenbriar Riding Academy (Springville, IA)
- July 14 Greenbriar Riding Academy (Springville, IA)
- Sept 20-22 Iowa Equestrian Center (Kirkwood Cedar Rapids, IA)



*Tamarack Stables*

Traditional and Western Dressage, Combined Training, Sport Horse  
More information: [www.tamarackstablesiowa.com](http://www.tamarackstablesiowa.com)



## Tamarack Stables Iowa Presents



### Marina Parris Woodhead July 12-13, 2024 at Greenbriar Riding Academy



*Creating Harmonious Horse & Rider Partnerships is more than just her business motto – it's her joy, her mission, her life!*

\$150 for 45 min Private lesson  
\$80 per rider for Semi Private (2 in group)  
\$20 auditor fee

Marina is FEI Level Dressage Trainer, Competitor, and High Performance Rider achieving the USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals, is a USDF Certified Instructor and "L" Graduate Judge.

Marina competed her KWPN stallion, Pandora, in International Grand Prix competitions. In 2013 the pair was ranked 5th in the US in Open Grand Prix Freestyle, KWPN Champion, Region 6 Champion and in 2012 were long-listed for the Olympics. She is currently developing a fun and talented Pandora son as her next personal horse.

A lifelong horsewoman, Marina began her riding career at age 4, progressing through a variety of disciplines including Barrel Racing, Western & English Pleasure, Arabian, Hunter/Jumpers, and Endurance until discovering the benefits and intrigue of Dressage in 1986. Dressage offered an ongoing challenge and is now a lifelong passion.

*"My involvement in all aspects of Horse Training and other Disciplines have both broadened and refined my horsemanship skills, which I include in my Dressage Instruction."*

More information contact Tammy Lisi [tammylisi71@gmail.com](mailto:tammylisi71@gmail.com)

[www.tamarackstablesiowa.com](http://www.tamarackstablesiowa.com)

