



THE COLLECTION

IaDCTA Newsletter

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Annual Meeting - January 29, 2023

The IaDCTA Annual Meeting and Award Presentation will be held January 29 at **The Wakonda Club** at 3915 Fleur Drive in Des Moines. This Meeting is open to members and non-members. Come and bring a friend with you! Besides the luncheon, awards presentation, and short business meeting, we will have a silent auction and a great speaker, Dr. Gail Hoff.

If you have not yet made a lunch reservation, please email Nena Denman at nkdenman@gmail.com and make your payment either via check to Nena or payment through PayPal IaDCTA405@gmail.com

NEW: If using electronic payment, please include an additional convenience fee of \$2.00

Flyer with menu may be found on page 11 .



It's Membership Renewal time!

Thank you to our members who have renewed their IaDCTA membership for 2023. If this has slipped off your to-do list, please go IaDCTA.org to renew your membership today! Don't forget to nominate your horse for the 2023 Year-end Awards . This may also be done in person at the Annual Banquet and Awards .

Have something for Silent Auction?

If you have any **items** or **services** that you would like to donate to our silent auction during the Annual Banquet and Awards please let Mary Wood know at :

mary.wood96@outlook.com



SAVE THE DATES !

IaDCTA Spring Ahead Show to be held at Middle River Ranch
April 22, 2023

IOWA DRESSAGE AND EVENTING SHOWS

MARCH

24-26 Sport Horse Show **dressage** IEC Kirkwood Cedar Rapids <https://tamarackstablesiowa.com>

APRIL

22 IaDCTA Spring Show **dressage** MRR, Winterset <https://iadcta.com>

22 LRE Spring Eventing Show **eventing** Leighton lreventing01@gmail.com

MAY

6-7 Maffitt Lake Fantasy Show I&II **dressage** MLEC, <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

7 Catalpa Corner One Day **eventing** CCHP, Iowa City <http://www.catalpacorner.org>

10-14 Maffitt Lake Spring Gathering I **dressage** MLEC, <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

17-21 Spring Gathering II **dressage** MLEC, <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

JUNE

17-18 Maffitt Lake Classic I&II **dressage** MLEC, Cumming <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

25 Tamarack Show Series **dressage** Greenbriar, Springville <https://tamarackstablesiowa.com>

JULY

9-10 LRE Summer Eventing Show **eventing** Leighton lreventing01@gmail.com

29-30 Two Rivers Classic I&II **dressage** MLEC, Cumming <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

AUGUST

2-6 Two Rivers Summer Fest I **dressage** MLEC, <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

9-13 Two Rivers Summer Fest II **dressage** Cumming

6 Catalpa Corner Charity **HT eventing** CCHP, Iowa City <http://www.catalpacorner.org>

26-27 Maffitt Lake Fantasy Show IV & VI **dressage** MLEC, <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>
Cumming

SEPTEMBER

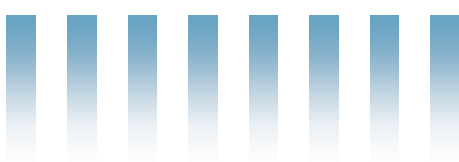
9-10 Tamarack Schooling Show **dressage** IEC Kirkwood, <https://tamarackstablesiowa.com>
Championship Show Cedar Rapids

23-24 Maffitt Lake Fantasy Show VII **dressage** MLEC, <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>
Finale Cumming

27-1 GAIG/USDF Region 4 Dressage Championships & MLEC Fall Harvest Dressage Show
Cumming <http://maffittlakeequestriancenter.com>

This is what we have as of January 13 2023

DEADLINE FOR SPRING COLLECTION MARCH 15, 2022



THE ROAD TO REGIONALS 2023

The year, 2023 will be an exciting one for dressage riders in Iowa because once again the Region Four Championship show will be held near Des Moines. Maffitt Lake Equestrian Center is hosting this event for the third time during the weekend of September 27-October 1 Those involved in 2021 enjoyed seeing competitors from several states at a beautiful setting with lots of shopping. What could be better! The event is sponsored by the Great American Insurance Group and is a Level 4 competition.

You may be asking yourself how a horse and rider combination can participate at this great venue and competition. There are several ways. One way is the non-championship route. The second involves the championship competition. Information for each is included below.

Rider/Owner Memberships

USDF GMO members may compete in Open (non-championship) classes at the show. These regular classes help pay the expense of holding the championship competition, so participation is important. Riders, owners, and trainers who are GMO members already have a USDF membership number. In addition, at United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) recognized shows, except for Introductory or Opportunity Level classes, all rider, owners, and trainers must be USEF members or must pay the Show Pass fee. Those who are not USDF or USEF members will have to pay a non-member participation fee. However, membership can be applied for at the competition.

GMO members may receive awards in several programs. However only riders, and owners with Participating USDF memberships may enter the Regional Championship classes or USDF Year-End awards. The competing riders, and horse owners, also need to be USEF members.

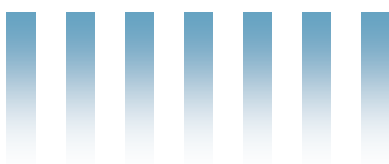
Horse Registration

All horses in any USDF/USEF recognized competition must have a either a USDF Horse Identification (HID) number or a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR). These are obtained through the USDF website. The only exclusions are for Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB), Opportunity, or Introductory level classes. Horses that are entering championship classes or USDF/USEF award programs must have an LHR and a USEF (Annual or Lifetime) Horse Recording. Horses with LHRs do not need HID numbers as well. HID numbers can be elevated to LHR status with an additional fee. Leased horses must be registered by the owner.

Qualifications to Compete at Regionals

There are no qualifications to ride in the Open (non-championship) classes at Regionals. To qualify for championship competition, two qualifying scores at the appropriate level (e.g., Training, First, Second) must be earned before entering the show. These scores must be for the highest test at a level and earned in Championship Qualifying classes at recognized USDF/USEF shows. The scores must be from two different shows with two different judges. There are minimum qualifying scores for each level. Riders and owners must be USDF Participating members and USEF members prior to the scores being earned.

For additional information and details, please refer to the USDF Member Guide for 2023. Information concerning all the USDF awards is included. This booklet is sent to all GMO members annually. Or go to the USDF website for Regional Championship rules at: [Regional Championship Competitors \(usdf.org\)](https://www.usdf.org) The effort on the Road to Regionals is worth the reward of an exciting accomplishment. If competing is not possible, there are other ways to be involved in this active weekend. Many volunteers are needed to serve as scribes, runners, supervisors, hosts, and more. Information about opportunities can be found through the Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association or Maffitt Lake Equestrian Center websites.



2023 USDF Annual Convention Highlights

Submitted by Tammy Lisi

The first week of December I attended the USDF Convention in Lexington, KY as a delegate for IaDCTA. This is a quick recap of what was discussed.

Day 1

Discussion of awards offered by USDF with some special ones highlighted here:

Equine Youth volunteer of the year award

Shining start sportsmanship award- developed to highlight one incident. Anyone can win.

Dressage spirit award. Don't need to ride to do it. Encourage application for kids

Young rider graduate program

Rider levels with distinction. With score percentage over 67% Apply online... certificate, featured in yearbook, lapel pin

Online awards resource guide. Has all of the awards available as well as how to apply and the requirements for each.

GMO education initiative

- Grant funds available

- GMO event can apply up to \$1000 to lower costs to members

- Check the guidelines to make sure they get thru.

- Prepackaged educational modules for meetings

- Private barn and private individual events- can be added

- Schooling shows can be on the education map

Getting more kids in dressage.

Offering classes at schooling shows that normally don't work at rated show was encouraged.

Region 4 GMO meeting

- GMO fliers or advertising at Regional competition.

- Fundraising for the GMO- trainers and GMO baskets

 - It was decided to qualify for a grant you must live in Region 4.

 - People in regionals from out of the region was brought up as a concern.

 - Regional awards voted to be only available to people with residence of region 4 rather than declarations from outside the region

DAY 2

USEF rule changes to highlight

- Eventing TOC classes may be allowed at Level 1, 2, and 3 shows

- Safety coordinator must have a USEF membership

- One USEF proposal is being pushed back on due to increased stress on small shows. That would be the requirement of a safety and welfare steward at all competitions.

- Required to check in prior to schooling at a show. If not checked in properly

- Directives added to show over track in walk added for clarification

-



-Training Level

Consider a 20 m circle the base from which everything grows

Corner riding needs to start here. No motorcycling. Corner needs to be ridden in 3 steps 1) begin 2) bend 3) exit and rebalance. Proper corner at this level is 10-12 meters.

-First Level

More straightness is required which means for uphill tendency

Know when sitting isn't helping and posting is allowed at this level!

COLLECTION IS JUST BALANCE!

Second Level

COLLECTION IS JUST BALANCE!

There are several ways to learn about the tests.

VIMEO on the levels

APP for android and Apple

Check the USDF store for more options.

If you would like to explore any of these highlights in dept- you can find the information on the USDF website, or reach out to me or someone else who may have more details on the subject.



The future is a great time to be living in the Midwest. Important dates in the equestrian calendar follow:

2023 Dressage Festival of Champions- August 21-27 –
Lamplight Equestrian Center

2023 FEI World Cup – Omaha, Nebraska

2024 Olympics – - Paris, France

2028 – Olympics, Los Angeles, California



ELECTIONS & NEW TESTS

IaDCTA Board and Officer Election

The IaDCTA Board and Officer election will be held at the Annual Meeting January 29. If you are not able to attend the Annual Meeting, **you may request** an Absentee Ballot from Nena Denman nkdenman@gmail.com

Absentee Ballots may be mailed to Nena Denman 21248 360th Street, Earlham Iowa. They must be received by January 15 to be counted in the election. You may also scan/screen shot your absentee ballot and email it to Nena.

You are eligible to vote if you are a 2022 member of IaDCTA. Single adult memberships have one vote and family memberships have 2 votes. Junior members (18 and under) do not vote.

HEADS UP! New dressage tests this year!



Dressage:

The new USDF tests went into effect on December 1st, 2022 and are available

[Forms & Documents \(usdf.org\)](https://www.usdf.org)

TEST CHANGES

Intro Levels A, B and C

No changes to the test patterns. The only addition to test C is both 20m circles in trot are now **rising** trot.

Training Level

Minor changes:

Test 1 – the transition from trot to walk is now between letters.

Test 2 – no changes.

Test 3 – is quite different with the return of the trot loop in both directions rather than the three-loop serpentine and canter across the diagonal and trot at X. Remember that the trot loop and the walk loop are ridden slightly differently; the trot loop should look bending and curvy where the walk loop should walk straight to X and turn back to the corner letter.

First Level

Minor changes with a complete rework of test 3:

Test 1 – trot work is the same with the elimination of canter lengthening and 15m canter circles are at E/B.

Test 2 – no change to the pattern with the exception of the turn down center line at trot prior to the leg yields. Changed from 1/2-10m circle at corner letter to A turn down center line.

Test 3 – is quite a bit different but contains all the same elements. The angle and line of the leg yield to 10m circle on centerline remains the same, but the order of the movements is new, showing the trot leg yield and canter all in one direction with the walk in between and then the other leg yield and canter pattern. This breaks up the canter nicely, but will be a much busier test than before.

Second Level

Tests 1 and 2 have been shortened slightly, while test 3 remains the same.

Test 1 – the pattern is the same with a slightly different ending resulting in a shorter test.

Test 2 – has a new trot pattern consisting of shoulder-in to half-10m circle to half-10m circle to shoulder-in and repeating with the travers, which will ride very smoothly. The canter pattern is the same as the current test 2.

Test 3 – same test pattern.

Third Level

Tests have no changes.

Fourth Level

Tests have minor changes which will result in smoother tests.

Test 1 – trot and canter contains all the same elements but in a different order. There is no longer shoulder-in on centerline or the extended walk on the 20m half-circle.

Test 2 – same trot and walk pattern. Canter elements are the same, but in a new order.

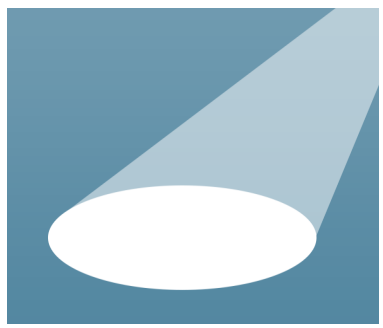
Test 3 – trot elements are the same in a new order. Extended walk is on the 20m half-circle. Canter work has been shortened and tied up. The approach to the canter half-pirouettes is in a new location after the canter half-passes.



Member Spotlight on Robin Ballantyne



Robin and Glider



The Old Barn



I'm a farm kid from Prairieburg, IA who rode the gravel roads, usually bareback and in shorts. A love for horses has guided my life. I felt the most alive when riding my ponies. My favorite pony Pansy knew all my secrets! A bright bay, Hackney/Welsh cross, we spent hours and hours together.

As a young adult I owned several horses and did a lot of trail riding and horse camping. If I wasn't working my factory job at the meat packing plant, I was hanging out with my horses or with someone else who had horses. When my adventurous little sister went off to horse college in 1987 I said goodbye to the factory and went too. I sold what I could to pay for a three-month course and traveling expenses. Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre was a magical place for me. I was finally learning everything I had always wanted to know. The time went so fast and when it was time to leave, I asked the president if there was any way I could stay. He offered me the opportunity to teach the short programs that summer in exchange for another quarter of education. Boy, did I learn a lot that summer! I found that I really loved teaching. The opportunity to teach another person who also wanted to know more about horses seemed like a dream come true! I stayed for three more years teaching and training.

While a student at Meredith Manor, I read an article in a horse magazine about one of their graduates. The article had a photo of a silhouetted young lady leading her horse through her barn. The article talked about the success of her growing lesson program. The seed was planted! That's what I wanted for myself!

In 1993, I opened Greenbriar Riding Academy in Springville and as I followed the silhouettes of my students and their horses through the barn door to the outdoor arena I would remember that article. My barn was a small one with patchwork stalls, no paint on the exterior and slimy mud everywhere. But, I was undeterred! I had a new husband who gave me his full support, and board by board we added stalls and a new outdoor arena. The students came and the program grew.



Robin and son Selby

Then the babies came, a son and a daughter. It's true, babies change everything! In 1996 life took an unfortunate turn, and changed again when my husband died in a car accident. There was not enough time to care for the babies, do the stalls, the feeds, and the lessons; I needed help. Geline St. John, also a graduate of Meredith Manor, came to the rescue. She has been with me for nearly 30 years. In the early years, she and I developed the summer day camp curriculum, which includes horsemanship and riding skills. Together we kept the program moving forward. She taught the lessons, and I became the feed person, stall cleaner, maintenance person and administrative program director.

In 2013 I was able to purchase the twelve acres next to Greenbriar, which allowed me to build the new large indoor arena with classrooms and bathrooms. We felt so spoiled after 20 years of no hot water and only a port-o-potty. Our adult student population increased and once again, our program grew. Motivational speaker Zig Zigler says, "Help enough people get what they want, and you will have what you want." That has certainly held true for us because without our dedicated students it would not have been possible!



The New barn 2013



Katy Merritt, a second instructor at the time, coached our first group of students as they participated in a Tamarack Schooling Show in 2014. These riders had just completed our Trainer camp level, where they had spent an intensive month riding and preparing their horses for the competition. This being the first show for us, we felt blessed to have such a welcoming show series so close. Thus, the Show Team began and continues today under the guidance of Geline St.John. Having a show team allows us the opportunity to work with riders several times a week to help them develop their riding and training skills.



My son, Selby Ballantyne, joined our team in 2018 after graduating from Iowa State University with an Animal Science degree with an emphasizing equine nutrition and breeding. His role as Barn Manager means he does a lot of the behind the scenes work, but he also teaches in our summer camp program. Selby grew up helping with summer camp, the kids adore him, his humor makes them all feel special while they learn their camp theory. Having him working with me is just another dream come true!

2020 was a year of ups and downs. In June, we welcomed Emma Long to our team as a second full-time instructor. Two months later, the derecho damaged the barn where she was to teach her lessons, but that didn't stop her. She taught in the outdoor arena and worked at building her clientele.

Tammy & Tom Lisi's facility was also destroyed by the derecho in 2020, and the Tamarack Show Series still had a fall show scheduled. I used that as an excuse to put in the outdoor dressage arena I had been wanting and offered to hold the show at Greenbriar. Today we are in the process of putting a new building on the former outdoor dressage arena. The new barn will have a 60x120 indoor arena, tack room, small viewing room and stalls for our lesson horses. Emma will be teaching in style! While the landscaper was here, we leveled off a place for a new outdoor dressage arena. It should be ready to use in the spring. Perhaps we will be able to provide facilities for another show.



The New barn 2013



Greenbriar has slowly evolved into what it is today as a result of our efforts to serve those who have passed through our doors. Feedback from our students has helped us build a safe, welcoming environment for them to learn to ride and appreciate all of the things that go along with it.

I am so proud of our students who have gone on to horse ownership. Some of our former students are successful IaDCTA members, continuing to develop their riding and training skills. Some have gone on to own their own businesses teaching and training others. It is humbling to know that Greenbriar has been a part of so many riders' journeys.

I am grateful for my family, I know I would not be where I am today without their help. They have always been my biggest supporters. I don't believe they ever told me that I couldn't do this. They always believed in me!

In May of 2023 Greenbriar Riding Academy will be 30 years old! For me, it's still a thrill every time I see the expression on the face of a new rider, when they squeeze the horse for the first time, and it goes! Though we have seen many changes through the years, one thing remains the same: we are helping dreams come true one ride at a time. Regardless of the saddle you ride, we will teach you to communicate with your horse to the degree that they will enjoy the experience as much as you do. Because after all, the horses are the real reason we do this thing!



The Newest barn 2022



Lilo Fore Clinic as ridden by Emalee Walker

It wouldn't be unordinary to say Lilo Fore is extraordinary. Not only has she made a huge footprint in the dressage world with her expertise in riding a perfect dressage test, how to train a dressage horse properly, and Horsemanship all around, but she also showed a personal side to her that inspired me and drove me closer to horses in three ways.

First, she has kept every competitive horse she has ever ridden on her farm in California. She talked about the importance it is of having a horse for its lifetime. In this horse society, buying and selling horses once riders are done with them has become a part of the norm. Lilo did not follow this and went against the curb of societal horse owner norms. She expressed such gratitude and passion for her animals whether they accomplished grandly in the ring or were just pasture pets.

Second, the spark she had for teaching. After hours of the clinic each student got to sit down and have dinner with Lilo – at the dinner, it was mentioned how incredible it was for Lilo to judge the top of the world riders and we asked Lilo who was her favorite – her answer was humbling – she said it had always been amazing to see those riders, but it wasn't them that gave her the pure enjoyment. It was any combination of rider and horse trying to perform harmonious partnership in the ring.

Third, the longevity of how long she has been a part of the dressage community and impact she's made on riders old and young. She has dedicated so much time and energy into this sport and continues to.

I'm so grateful for the time and opportunity spent with such a legend. The memories and theologies will stick with me for the long run.



Maggie Walker Mosman and Emalee Walker at Tempo Farm Photo Michaella Walker



Maggie Walker Mosman in sunny FL



Emalee Walker at Providence Farm

Lilo Fore ClinicS as audited by Maggie Walker

As a trainer/instructor/sister duo, there are so many exciting moments we get to experience when it comes to working horses together. Watching Emalee and Grenade grow together as a pair is definitely a top one of them! Emalee and Grenade were selected to ride in the Region 4 Jr/YR clinic with Lilo Fore at the beautiful Providence Farm in November. What a privilege to watch these talented young riders with an absolute LEGEND in dressage. Lilo is an incredible teacher. So many good reminders this weekend on how dressage is hard, but it's not all that complicated. It all boils down to the correct basics of the training pyramid, over and over again.

What an honor it was to watch my sister on a horse we have trained ourselves from day 1.

Here are just some of my notes and top Lilo-isms for the weekend:

Walk Leg yield to a turn on forehand to an upward transition gets the horse thinking quicker and more supple

Whatever you allow the horse to do, you're training the horse to do

Reins should never feel empty, always pushing from behind to fill them up

Keep the contact
Keep the contact
KEEP THE CONTACT!

The horse should always feel electric, ready to say "what's next?"

Feel like you can always ask the horse for a fraction more of what they are giving you (in connection with the basics)

The double bridle is a privilege to ride in, always keep the horse on the snaffle. If the curb is too tight, it doesn't allow the horse to be honest on the snaffle, even if you aren't holding onto it

Simplify the piaffe - trot quick in place
Think of a trot reaction, don't work harder at it, just a little longer at it

To get it quicker (piaffe), tickle on top of croup with the whip, legs slightly behind girth and dip them low with the heels dropping towards the ground

Always start forward thinking with collection in the walk to begin piaffe
Make the walk active to make the piaffe active

Find the balance and the tempo in all the gaits and make it your home base

Collection is NOT backwards, it's just a gathering of the horses natural energy

Use the Renver as an exercise to get the horse up in the shoulders for the half pass

Inside leg rides the horse UP in the half pass

Seat is the regulator - it's the aid to collect or to release the collection

In the pirouettes, you don't want to sit on a trampoline, you want to sit on a hill

Shoulder-in is the mother of all movements, if you can ride the shoulder in, you can ride anything

Horses don't have collar bones, this makes it easy for a horse to move their shoulders around, but harder for the rider to control (see shoulder-in comment)



IN OTHER NEWS

MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT



Amanda Steffen ...oh the joys of horses



Evan Fleck



Derith Vogt , thumbs up!



Meaghan, Ava, and Michael Burdick



Meaghan first ride back



Julie Kuhle, Griffin, Roger



At Natalie Tomaras' home.....



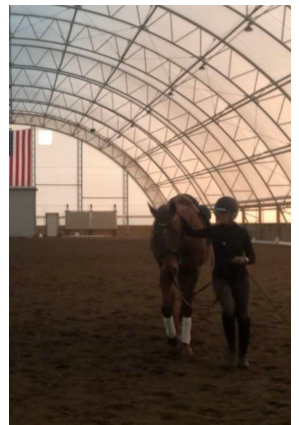
Camie Stockhausen relocated



Lisa Etzel...yes that is her!



Amy Jo Vanwyk under attack



Carol Linnan and Apollo



Robin Sprafka celebrating 70



Leann Nelson



Mary Wood



Alex Novotny-Pasker at Cumberland Hunt

Hannah Jungling and Derith Vogt



Chris Heydon,
Julie Kuhle,
Derith Vogt



Tobi Sharon Greene at The Livery in Winterset

It's not too late....

2023 Annual Meeting - 2022 Awards Banquet Silent Auction

Keynote Speaker - Gail Hoff, PhD

Dressage Clinician, Dressage and Western Dressage Judge, and Author

Sunday, January 29, 2023 12:30-4 pm

Please join us.

Wakonda Golf and Country Club

3915 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321

Directions- WGCC is located on Fleur Drive, south of Downtown and north of the Airport.

Menu Choices

Adult selections include coffee, tea, or milk, hors d'oeuvres, breads, twice baked loaded potatoes (GF), garlic green beans (GF), Garden Salad, and dessert.

Herb Marinated & Grilled 6oz. Chicken Breast with Chimichurri Sauce (GF)

House Made Linguini Noodles with Traditional Alfredo Sauce & Garlic Bread (Veg)

Iowa Country 8 oz Meatloaf with Pan Gravy

Child's Luncheon

Hors D'oeuvres, Fried Breaded Chicken Planks, Sweet Potato Fries, Salad with Ranch Dressing, dessert

Cash Bar Available

Reservation Form

Please submit your reservation by **Jan. 20, 2023**. This can be made in two ways. Please send this portion along with your payment of \$35 per person by cash or a check made out to Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association (IaDCTA) to:

Nena Denman 21248 360th Street Earlham, IA 50072 (515) 834-2839

or email the information below to Nena Denman at nkdenman@gmail.com and make a payment through PayPal (\$37 per person) using IaDCTA405@gmail.com

You can also list the attendees' names and menu choices in the Pay Pal memo area.

Your name- Please print _____

Number of guests _____ x \$35/37PP = _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____

Chicken _____ Linguini _____ Meatloaf _____ Children's Meal _____



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 compete regularly at local schooling shows in dressage and combined tests, as well as recognized shows in both disciplines. I am wondering about the judges. Could you explain what the qualifications are to judge at schooling and recognized shows? I am also curious about a score I received for a Beginner Novice dressage test at a schooling show. My test was perfect, accurate, and obedient, my best ever, so I was surprised to see my score was not reflective of this. What could I be missing?

Wondering about Judging

Dear Wondering,

Thank you for asking for clarification on what qualifies a person to judge at different types of shows. It is a little complicated but good to know. Aiken is very fortunate to offer so many opportunities to compete at dressage and combined training events.

Qualifications for judges do have many variables, so let's take a look.

A schooling show that does not have any ratings from a local or national organization may hire anyone to be their judge. This officiator is not required to have any specific judge training or licensing.

Schooling shows that are recognized have some requirements for judges, for example, the SCDCTA and IaDCTA (South Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association), requires the judge to be a USDF L graduate or hold a USEA (United States Eventing Association) or USEF (United States Equestrian Federation) judging license with a minimum of an 'r' distinction. An eventing competition with a USEA/USEF rating requires the organizers to hire a licensed USEA eventing or USEF dressage judge to officiate. The level of divisions being offered and the judges' individual qualifications would determine what classes they would be allowed to judge.

A dressage show with USDF/USEF recognition requires a licensed USEF dressage judge to officiate. Once again, the levels being offered and the judges' qualifications would determine what classes they would be allowed to judge. Therefore, a rated USEF dressage judge in good standing may officiate at a schooling show, USEA event, and USDF/USEF dressage show. A USEA eventing judge may officiate only at schooling shows and rated USEA/USEF events: this license will not permit them to judge at a USDF/USEF dressage show.

Unrecognized schooling shows are not required to have a certified judge.

As for your second question, I am glad to hear you had such a nice Beginner Novice dressage test. Accuracy and obedience certainly go a long way but this alone will not earn you a good score. Let's take a look at the purpose of this level dressage test. On the front page of all tests, the purpose is clearly stated. For all Beginner Novice tests, this is: "to show an understanding of riding the horse forward in a steady tempo and a clear rhythm. To confirm that the horse's muscles are supple and loose and that it moves freely forward in a clear and steady rhythm, accepting contact with the bit. To show proper geometry and bend in both directions at all gaits. All trot may be done rising or sitting. Halt may be done through the walk."

So what does this all mean? Riders should keep in mind when trotting you will not earn higher points just because you sit to the trot. At this level sitting is optional. This means a "10" is a possibility even if you are rising. Often at this level, horses can move more freely when you are rising in the trot work, even if you have a beautiful secure seat. Remember to think about swinging back with ground-covering strides. Your horse should have forward intent and be tracking up (stepping in the tracks of their front hooves with their hind hooves). Do what is best to show off your horse's gait.

In your trot and canter tours, it is important to keep your horse's frame at least level while accepting contact. Be careful not to let the frame become too long, short, low, curled, or behind the bit to name a few. Focus on keeping the horse's poll the highest point. Your judge will also take into account how your horse accepts the bit. Ideally, you want a quiet mouth and connection. Mouths that open and get too busy, or a tongue coming out will have a negative effect on your score. It is also important to have your horse bending to the inside in all turns, corners, and circles as well as going straight on the long sides, diagonals, and centerlines.

In these tests, you are asked to show a medium walk and a free walk. You want to show a clear difference between the two. What they both require are a clear, four-beat rhythm and forward energy. In the medium walk, the frame and stride should be more open than in a working walk, with marching energy. In the free walk, you should let your reins out and allow your horse to stretch the stride and frame in a relaxed manner. If your horse over-tracks in the free walk it is even better. Keeping the forward intent is key.

When it comes to the halt, remember that a few walk steps (two to three) are permitted between the trot and the halt. This means you could get a 10 whether you have walk steps or not. Do whatever will set your horse up to be straight, square, or close to square, and, most important, immobile. The tests require three seconds of immobility. Finally, the new eventing tests now have just one final mark for the collective. This mark takes everything into account. So you can see that there are a lot of different factors that go into your final score. Obedience and accuracy are important, but the training scale and purpose of the test have a big influence.



Whatever type of shows you ride in and whatever the judges' qualifications, they are there to share their knowledge and to report on how each scoring box was presented. The best way to understand a disappointing score is to look over your test sheet carefully and read all your marks and comments. Hopefully, your judge has shared the highlights of your ride: in your recent case this may have been an obedient horse and accurately ridden test. But your judge should also have shared the places where you and your horse have room for improvement. Maybe your horse needs to move more freely forward or stay in a better-balanced frame; maybe you need to work on straightness on the long side or bending on your circles.

Keep enjoying your dressage work and try to learn from all your scores. A main goal of showing is to obtain an objective opinion of how you and your horse are progressing in your dressage journey and to learn what you need to do to advance. Judges want to help you do that: their feedback is intended to help bring out the best in you and your horse.

***!#!*!! Mud Season Already? Again?!**

Have you ever had your rubber boot sucked off your foot? Horse shoes pulled off? Horse have scratches or cellulites or thrush? MUD! It is the bane of horse people everywhere. Luckily for those of us in the Midwest, it is considered seasonal. This winter seems to be shaping up to be a rather long season.

Besides the health of your horse, another big concern is your turn out. Hopefully you have the ability to keep your horses off of your main pasture for most of this so the grass is not torn up. High traffic areas such as feeding stations and gateways can be particularly difficult. There are many ways to approach this and some are more costly than others.

One of the easiest things to do is to raise the ground a bit and put gravel or crushed stone on the high traffic areas. Wood or bark chips may be used as well. The downside to organic materials is that they will deteriorate and have to be replenished from time to time. Come to think of it, those truck loads of gravel disappear after a few years too!

Another solution is a grid of some sort. They are called everything from permeable pavers to matrix bases to footing grid systems. If you "google it", you will find that all sorts of designs are available as well as differing price points.

I think I am going to give this a try in the coming year. A circular driveway in that back yard would be nice too because backing out down the driveway isn't getting any easier!

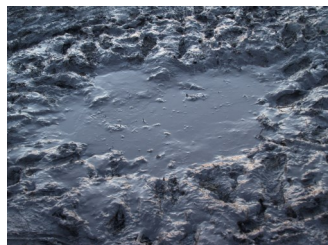
Stay dry and keep your boots on...

[Six Ways to Prevent Mud | US Equestrian \(usef.org\)](#)

[Managing mud on horse farms | UMN Extension](#)

[Stable ground fixing for animal husbandry on pasture and in barns \(inbsystem.com\)](#)

[Agtec Heavy Duty Grass Gravel and Paddock Pavers - 15.7in x 19.7in \(agriculturesolutions.com\)](#)



Executive Board for 2022

Elections held in January 2023

Rhea Allen President : cello2002@hotmail.com

Derith Vogt VP : hartvogt@netins.net

Nena Denman Treasurer: nkdenaman@gmail.com

Carmen Pierce Secretary: crpierce1977@gmail.com



Horse- A Novel

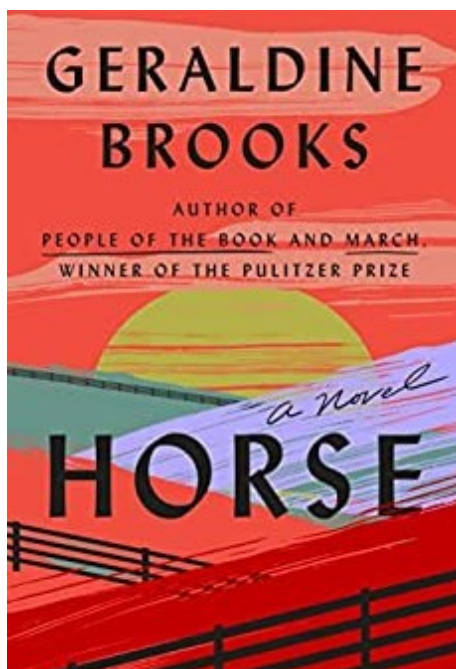
Author - Geraldine Brooks

Review by guest Roger Kuhle

Horse, by Australian Geraldine Brooks, is a 2022 best seller. And for good reason. It is a historical novel that holds the reader's interest from cover to cover. Stretching from 1850 in the antebellum South to the present, it weaves alternative stories about Lexington (the historical famous racehorse and prodigious stud) with the improbable 1950 New York art scene and the present day lives of a black art historian and a young anthropologist in Washington D.C.

For the non-horse enthusiast, *Horse*, is moving and exciting entertainment with plenty of race consciousness to make the reader gulp but still want to know more of the non-fiction side of the book. For the horse knowledgeable, *Horse*, challenges credulity about the length of races in the 19th century and the frequency with which they were run. The book also relates the love by some of these amazing animals and the cruelty by others, often for financial gain.

The reviews are plentiful and mostly all high praise. But a more candid review by an Australian published in the Guardian (6-9-22) is, in my opinion, more objective as it considers the difficulty of Brooks' effort to neatly tie the 170-year timespan together.



"Brooks' chronological and cross-disciplinary leaps are thrilling." —*The New York Times Book Review*



TREASURER'S REPORT

December 2022

End of the Year Report 2022



Beginning Checking Acct. Bal.	\$11,882.65		
<u>CREDITS:</u>	This period:	Prior period	Total To Date
Horse Nominations -Cash	\$75.00	\$573.00	\$648.00
Membership Dues - Cash	\$454.00	\$710.12	\$1,164.12
Horse Nomination - PayPal	\$271.00	\$212.48	\$483.48
Membership - PayPal	\$541.52	\$1,723	\$2,264.70
Sponsorships	\$225.00	\$98	\$323.21
Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$626.00	\$626.00
Award Fund - Raffle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Annual Banquet	\$35.00	\$1,378.87	\$1,413.87
Show	\$0.00	\$2,316.19	\$2,316.19
Clinic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. Advertising/Arena Rental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. King Queen	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL CREDITS	\$1,601.52	\$7,638.05	\$9,239.57
<u>DEBITS:</u>			
Operations: Printing	\$0.00	\$37.96	\$37.96
Banquet DMGCC	\$0.00	\$1,366.71	\$1,366.71
Bank Fees - Club Express	\$0.00	\$2,477.96	\$2,477.96
Banquet Misc.	\$0.00	\$181.21	\$181.21
Awards/Ribbons	\$0.00	\$1,582.39	\$1,582.39
Education - Clinic	\$0.00	\$523.38	\$523.38
Shows	\$0.00	\$193.87	\$193.87
Insurance	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Membership dues-USDF	\$0.00	\$1,182.00	\$1,182.00
Conference, Convention, Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. - office supplies/License	\$0.00	\$29.55	\$29.55
TOTAL DEBITS	\$0.00	\$7,725.03	\$7,725.03
 NET INCOME	 \$1,601.52	 -\$86.98	 \$1,514.54
 SAVINGS	 \$0.14	 \$2,202.63	 \$2,202.77

Checking Acct Balance- current

\$13,484.17

Total Reserves/Designations

\$985.80

Outstanding Debits

\$664.43

Daily Operating Balance

\$11,833.94

Checking			\$13,484.17
Certificate of Deposit	\$0.00	\$11,315.61	\$11,315.61
Savings	\$0.00		\$2,202.77
Total Bank Balances			\$27,002.55

Year End Data Comparisons

Monetary	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Awards	-\$2,707.34	-\$720.89	-\$164.30	-\$1532.84	-\$1582.39
Banquet	\$2.72	\$90.04	\$141.41	NA	\$181.21
Betsy Coester Grant	\$695.97	\$695.97	\$769.97	\$809.97	\$574.80
Clinics	-\$116.40	\$0.00	-\$100.00	-\$225.00	-\$523.38
Club Express	-\$416.63	-\$389.50	-\$422.19	-\$834.15	-\$2477.46
Horse Nominations	\$745.00	\$600.00	\$510.00	\$945.00	\$1231.48
Insurance	-\$588.00	-\$588.00	-\$530.00	-\$150.00	-\$150.00
Membership	\$3,015.00	\$2,385.00	\$3175.00	\$5771.00	\$3428.82
Misc.	-\$156.04	-\$77.46	-\$23.02	-\$21.01	-\$29.55
Shows	\$666.95	\$658.67	\$1155.00	\$1753.76	\$1386.19
Silent Auction	\$839.00	\$1,080.81	\$711.00	\$1373.51	\$626.00
Sponsorships	\$1,190.00	\$490.00	\$660.00	\$100.00	\$323.21
USDF	-\$1,280.00	-\$1,176.00	-\$1670.00	-\$2144.00	-\$1182.00
Ending Balance	\$13,588.20	\$14,884.42	\$19,009.68	\$23,562.17	\$27,002.48
Memberships	80	56	64	82	85
Horse Nominations	54	37	35	61	83

2022 Spring Ahead Show –

Income - \$1246.19 Expenses – Facility \$150.00 Awards/Ribbons- \$100.00 Insurance- \$150.00 **Profit - \$846.19**

2022 Championship Show – Income \$1070.00 Expenses - Awards/Ribbons \$530.00 **Profit - \$540.00**