

THE COLLECTION

IaDCTA Newsletter



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Annual Meeting - January 21, 2024

The IaDCTA Annual Meeting and Award Presentation will be held January 21 and returns to the **West Des Moines Golf and Country Club 1600 Jordon Creek Parkway**. 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 guest speaker,

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 3 .



It's Membership Renewal time!

Thank you to our members who have renewed their IaDCTA membership for 2024. 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 2024 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 Rhea Allen know at :

cello2002@hotmail.com

ELECTIONS

IaDCTA Board and Officer Election

The IaDCTA Board and Officer election will be held at the Annual Meeting January 21. 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 2024 member of IaDCTA. Single adult memberships have one vote and family memberships have 2 votes. Junior members (18 and under) do not vote.

2024 Ballot for Officers



Voting guidelines: You must be a 2024 member of the IaDCTA to vote.

Single membership (one vote); Family membership (2 votes); Junior

STEP 1: Vote for Board of Directors (2024-2026) Vote (X) for four candidates (three-year terms each)

Nena Denman _____

David Law _____

Alex Novotny-Pasker _____

Kaelin Schildmier _____

STEP 2: Vote for Officers **NOTE:** Any officer vote MUST be for a current or newly elected member of the Board of Directors. Any officer vote that is not for a current or newly elected Board Member in step 1 will not be counted. (Officers will hold a one-year term)

President – vote for one

Rhea Allen _____

Write-in _____

Vice President – vote for one

Derith Vogt _____

Write-in _____

Secretary – vote for one

Carmen Pierce _____

Write-in _____

Treasurer – vote for one

Nena Denman _____

Write-in _____

Here is a bit about each of the candidates:

Rhea Allen: I have been a member of IaDCTA since 2014 and on the board of directors since January of 2020. I enjoy both dressage and Western dressage with my Gypsy Vanner gelding, Lenny. I have learned so much from IaDCTA educational offerings and from other members. I have been active on the board these past two years helping to organize the educational zoom meetings, organizing the King and Queen contest at the Championship show, and volunteering at numerous events such as the spring show, the championship show, Catalpa, and USDF Regionals.

I have enjoyed working with and learning from past and present board members and USDF liaisons. I would be proud to have the opportunity to serve IaDCTA as President in the coming year. We already have several activities on the agenda, with more to come. My goal, along with the rest of the board and volunteers, is to provide a variety of opportunities for fun, education, and competition that will benefit our members.

Nena Denman: A founding member of the Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association, Nena was born in Chicago, Illinois, and raised in Venezuela. First a Western rider, she next rode hunt seat. After college, she and her husband, Jesse, developed Upland Farm near Des Moines, Iowa. Nena became a whipper-in and founding member of the Moingona Hunt, an ASHA/USEF competitor, and an official Steward. She started eventing and learned the importance of dressage for all disciplines. Her current USEF licenses include being an Eventing, Dressage, and Western Dressage judge and Dressage Technical Delegate. Nena has bred and trained horses, taught riding, volunteered with the Raccoon Valley Pony Club, served on the IaDCTA Board, been a USDF delegate, trail ridden internationally, and managed mini-events and recognized dressage shows. A Des Moines Art Center docent, she created a video seminar of the equine art in its collection. She has found that sharing a love of horses with others has given her life much joy and many positive experiences.



David Law: David Law is the retired 7-8th grade band director at Vernon Middle School in Marion, Iowa. He is a National Board Certified Teacher and a member of the National Association for Music Educators, Iowa Music Educators Conference serving as – Past President, Iowa Bandmasters Association - Past President, Northeast Iowa Bandmasters Past President, Association for School Curriculum Development, National Education Association, Iowa State Education Association, and Marion Education Association – Treasurer, and the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education – Chair. David is married to Jill and has a daughter, Stephanie a professor of Physics at Penn State University, and a son, William, human genetics supervisor at the Johns Hopkins University.

Carmen Pierce: I live in Maxwell with my partner of almost 11 years. My love for horses runs deep in my soul and was sparked at a young age. There are many days I sat out in the horse pasture with my Grandpa's herd, gaining their trust, until they finally let me love on them. Seeing this and lots of begging my dad finally gave in and literally bought me a \$50 pony when I turned 8 and I have had horses ever since. I have dreamed of being a dressage competitor, I was hooked watching the Olympics way back in the day. I truly enjoy serving on the Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association and hope to continue as your Secretary and also be a competitor in 2024.

Alex Novotny-Pasker: Alex started her equestrian journey in 1989 in her hometown of Casper, WY where she grew up taking lessons and as an active member of Tri-State Dressage and Combined Training Association. She was fortunate to regularly clinic with some incredible riders and judges like Robin Hahn, Grant Schneidman, Janet Foy, and Debbie Rodriguez as well as compete in some wonderful locations like the Colorado Horse Park. She competed at the JR/YR Regional Team Championships where she and her Arabian gelding, Bay took home the individual Reserve Championship at 1st Level in 1998.

In 2001, Alex moved to the Midwest where she attended college at Iowa State, riding on their Equestrian team and working at the ISU horse breeding farm as she went through college.

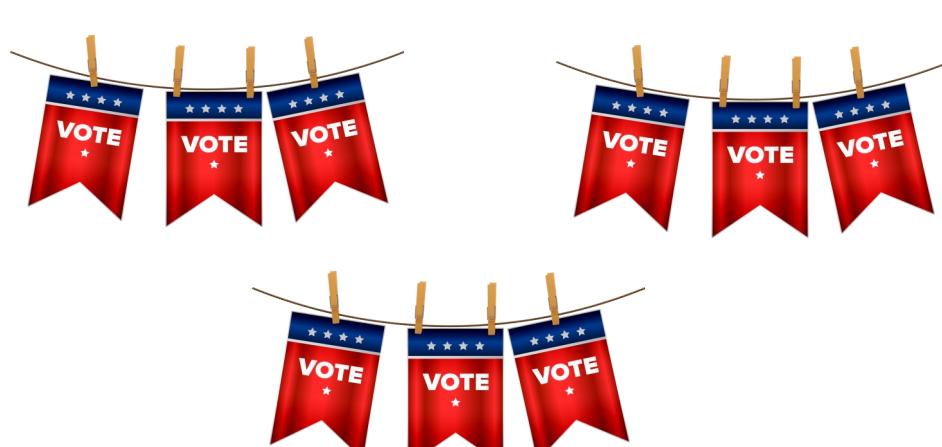
Post college, after getting her career off the ground, she changed from casually riding on the weekends to working on some of her lifelong riding goals including getting her USDF bronze, medal, riding at the Prelim level of eventing, and becoming a dressage judge—all things she has been fortunate to accomplish in the years since.

In 2023, Alex graduated from USDF's L Program with distinction and enjoys judging schooling shows, teaching clinics, and finding ways to give back to the grassroots of the sport.

Outside of horses, Alex is married, has fur kids, and enjoys traveling abroad with her husband and parents.

Kaelin Schilmier: Kaelin is a Speech Language Pathologist by title, but is known to be a passionate equestrian by her friends and family. Kaelin works from home in Bloomfield, where she lives with her husband, helping students grow their language skills. She keeps her horse William at home along with their two dogs and two cats. A native of central Indiana, Kaelin has been a student of dressage for almost 30 years, showing as a junior/young rider with her OTTB and occasionally dabbling in eventing before heading off to college and grad school. She landed in SE Iowa nearly 15 years ago, and desperately missed the horsey part of her life. Finding her place in the Iowa Dressage community has been a blessing! Currently, Kaelin rides her 6 year old Dutch gelding, Saffire Star, known around the barn as "William." They have been together for 3 years now, most recently competing in Training and First level dressage tests. They are headed to Florida to train for the winter with an aim for Second level next year!

Derith Vogt: I started hunt seat lessons when I was 5 and talked my grandpa out of \$135 to purchase a horse , Phylis, that some family friends had but could not ride. Since it was in Houston TX, where there are no zoning laws, Phylis lived in their back yard which was within two miles of Memorial Park. This is where my love of riding in the woods comes from. I live in rural Eastern Iowa with husband Gary, six cats and two horses. I enjoy taking care of my critters, photography and dabbling in Dressage and trail riding with my horse, Lucina , and putting together the IaDCTA Collection.



2024 Annual Meeting- 2023 Awards

Silent Auction

Keynote Speaker Mary Jane Hoepner

Sunday January 21, 2024 12:30-16:00

Please join us.

Des Moines Golf and Country Club

1600 Jordan Creek Parkway, West Des Moines IA 50266

Directions-DMGCC is located off I 80 west of I35 Exit 121

Menu Choices

Selections include coffee, tea, or milk, hors d'oeuvres, breads, Galette Potatoes (GF), garlic green beans (GF), and dessert of Crème Brûlée.

Traditional Cobb Salad- turkey, ham, romaine lettuce, avocado, tomato, blue cheese, bacon, hardboiled egg, cucumber, buttermilk dressing (no additional salad) GF

Chicken Francaise – Parmesan cheese, butter, white wine, lemon, fresh herbs GF

Pork Marsala – pearl onions, wild mushrooms, Marsala sauce GF

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. 16, 2024**. This can be made in two ways. Please send this portion along with your payment of **\$40 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 (\$42 per person) using IaDCTA405@gmail.com

Please list the attendees' names and menu choices in the Pay Pal memo area.

Your name- Please print _____

Number of guests _____ x \$40 cash/\$42 PP = _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____

Cobb Salad _____ Chicken _____ Pork _____ Children's Meal _____

For membership questions

**Please contact Nena Denman via
email: nkdenman@gmail.com**

**DEADLINE FOR SPRING
COLLECTION MARCH 15, 2022**



The Golden Anniversary Convention

By Nena Denman

The 2023 Annual Meeting, Convention, and Awards Banquet of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the association. It was held in Omaha, Nebraska, which was fitting as the association began in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1973. Although not one of the founding clubs, the Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association (IaDCTA) was one of the earliest General Member Organizations having begun in 1976. I was privileged to represent this group as a delegate.

One of my delegate duties was to attend and cast the club's votes (3 based on the number of our members) at the Board of Governor's Meeting when motions were made. At two sessions, committee reports and actions were shared. They included that the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) will be developing an entry system that can be used by all recognized shows. This will streamline the process of checking for membership, horse identification, and Safe Sport training. In addition, the USEF Lite competition recognition will be expanding. Also, from this time onward, Dressage Technical Delegates will be checking the equipment for at least 50% of the entries at a recognized show.

Details concerning implementation will be sent to both management and competitors. Several other new actions were proposed. Dates for submitting data to the USDF were moved to later in the year to make it easier for GMOs to report. Also, the Adult Amateur and Junior/Young Rider Sport Horse Handlers Divisions will be awarded separately. I voted to support that action. The motion I voted against concerned dues increase. However, the motion passed and all categories of membership will have a fee increase. These actions will start in October of 2024.

When not in meetings, I attended educational sessions and Open Forums. These included the following:

- Maintaining the Momentum in Athlete Protection
- Education of New Members
- Growing Your GMO
- Successes and Failures in Competition
- Conformation and Its Relationship to Training
- Moving Through the Competition Levels
- Bit Fitting for the Equine Athlete
- Lunging Dos and Don'ts

Discussions with the Gold Medal Pan American Team

Many of the sessions were credited by the USDF University program. Please contact me for more information gained from each session. In addition to speaking out on behalf of the IaDCTA, voting on motions, and gaining valuable information, I was responsible for the organization and delivery of the IaDCTA basket. Each GMO brings a container filled with products representing its state and/or club. These are given by drawing to the delegates at the Board of Governors meeting. Please see the attached picture of our donation.

Good news was shared with the entire convention attendees. Five IaDCTA members received special recognition. Peyton Burch, Adalynn Nelson, Jackson Williams, and Carolyn Woodring awarded 2023 Dressage Spirit Awards. Molly Severn and her mount, Remington, were recognized by the International Sporthorse Registry /Oldenburg NA. Congratulation to you all!



Our IaDCTA Gift Basket/ Tote



Molly Sevren receiving her Breed Award



Executive Board for 2023

Elections held January 21, 2024

Rhea Allen President : cello2002@hotmail.com

Derith Vogt VP : hartvogt@netins.net

Nena Denman Treasurer: nkdenaman@gmail.com

Carmen Pierce Secretary: crpierce1977@gmail.com

United States Eventing Association 2023 Convention, Awards Banquet, and Annual Meeting

By Nena Denman

The 2023 USEA Convention was held in St. Louis, Missouri, from December 7-11 at the Marriott Grand Hotel. The convention was filled with informative educational sessions, discussions about the future of eventing in the United States, and recognitions of achievements up to and during the current year.

I was able to represent the Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association in several discussions. Most importantly, I gained beneficial information that can be shared with the club's membership. Sessions I attended included the following:

- Minimizing the Risk of Liability
- Problem Solving for Officials
- The USEF Sport Committee Open Forum
- The Classic Three-Day Open Forum
-
- The Organizers' Open Forum
- Testing Frangible Systems
- The Safety Committee Open Forum
- The USEA Coaches Program
- The American Horse Trials Foundation
- The Rule Changes for 2024 and 2025
- The Eventing Licensed Officials Committee Interpretation of the Rules
- Adult Riders – Bringing Your Best to the Show Ring
- Horse Syndication

Due to the number of sessions I attended, sharing the amount of information I gained would take pages to communicate. Please feel free to ask me to explain about any of the topics listed above.

There were several large meetings and awards presentations. The Annual Meeting was divided into several sections. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Temple Grandin. Her presentation about equine behavior due to fear provided helpful explanations and suggestions for training. A prolific author, her books are available through many sources. During the Awards section, winners included Area IV's Lena and Mark Warner. They received the 2023 Andrew H. Popiel Memorial Trophy for their devotion to the Otter Creek Horse Trials competitions.

However, there are several key items I would like everyone to know about. First is that under standard equine insurance, managers of equine events and facilities are not protected in liability suits from anyone but participants. This means that family members or spectators could file a suit. The best way to protect organizers or facility staff may be to post a sign explaining that anyone entering the venue is considered a participant. Signs are available from many sources. I have attached a picture of the basic information.



Second, there will be increased costs. Dues will increase in 2025. In addition, in 2024, riders who are showing at the Starter Level will need to join the USEA in order to participate. A way for events to avoid this cost is to title the Starter Division by another name. For example, it could be called First Steps, Introductory, or Greener Than Grass. The scores earned in such a division could not be used for Year End awards purposes, but the practice could keep costs down for new riders and horses.

Third, specific to Area IV, is the need to support and increase the number of local horse trials. The number of competition opportunities in the area is decreasing. Hopefully, organizers can meet to plan a schedule that facilitates more participation.

Last, but not least, congratulations to 2023 IaDCTA members. Meaghan Marinovich Burdick placed 4th in the Area IV Intermediate Rider and Intermediate Horse Divisions with Rivera Lu. Elizabeth Sauter McLain placed 3rd in the Area IV Novice Rider and Novice Horse Divisions with The Flying Iris. Elizabeth was also on the Champion Novice Team at the 2023 American Eventing Championships. Well done, ladies!



Meaghan Marinovich-Burdick and Rivera Lu



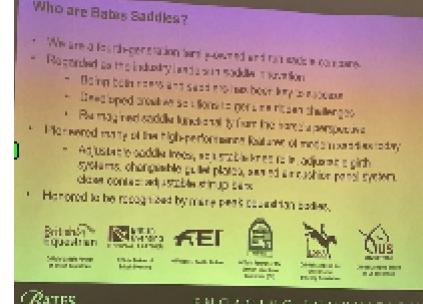
Lizzie Sauter-McClainn and The Flying Iris at AEC's as part of the winning Area IV Adult Team



Example of signage to post on grounds for facility or organizers to limit liability. Available on line from Etsy or Amazon



Informational slide about Bates Saddlery who had a presentation about saddle fitting.



Member Spotlight on

PJ Koehler



It was clear from age 4 in West Boxford, Massachusetts, that I was a horse lover. One fine fall day, I took off out of our driveway on my tricycle following two horses being ridden down the main street of town. It was over a block later before I was discovered pedaling madly while chanting "horsey, horsey" at the top of my lungs. At age 6 until I was 9, I attended the Simon School of Horsemanship for one week each summer while vacationing in Vermont. There I learned about go (get off my leg), whoa (accept the aids), and how to make an apple (circles) in what I didn't know at the time was my introduction to dressage. At age 10, my siblings and I began weekly riding lessons at the local stable where hunt seat was taught. A change in stables at age 12 for a more qualified program where we all learned to jump.

Finally, at age 13, with my own contribution of two years of hard earned baby-sitting funds, I got my first horse. Wanderlust, aka Wandy, was Clydesdale cross with a great fear of men and a respiratory condition known as Roaring. She was mine and nothing else mattered. We participated in 4H and in local competitions in hunt seat over the years. My senior year of high school, in a borrowed western saddle, we entered a local parade competition. I did not have a horse trailer and I rode the 6 miles to and from the parade start in order to participate and was delighted with my reserve placing. When I packed up and moved away from MA to MO in order to attend William Woods, my mom took care of Wandy for me. And after graduating college, she made the long trailer ride to join me in the Midwest.

At William Woods, I became an excellent saddle seat rider, preferring it over the hunt seat and western offerings the college had at that time. I even won the "Good Seat and Hands" medal at the Boys Town show at the Kansas City Royal. These accomplishments landed me my first horse position with a private saddle seat barn in Lawrence, KS, as their trainer and jack of all trades. I had heard they had been through a number of trainers in just a few years, but I am such an amiable person, I didn't think that would happen to me. Best laid plans of mice and of men, three months in, after trying to train horses with the non-horse person wife of the doctor owner of the barn instructing me on how to do it from handwritten notes from her husband, I gave notice and headed back to a friend's barn in Fulton, MO.

Jack Gilman Stables specialized in Tennessee Walking Horses and Missouri Fox Trotters for country pleasure competition. None of the soring nonsense, and lots of the nurturing training. Jack was open minded about my having two lesson horses and teaching basic riding in addition to training his horses. We bred Wanderlust to the Walking Horse stallion twice. Her first was a black colt I named Suns Magic Wand, my next equine partner, and the second was a blue roan filly I sold as a yearling. I was very busy and very happy, but Jack worked a full time "real job" and did not have a lot of money to sink into his horse business. I eventually had to get a real job and move away, taking my old mare and my young colt with me.

Eventually I lost Wandy to old age and was focused on developing Magic to be my next hunter in between working, teaching, and riding. By this time, I had purchased a pickup truck and an older horse trailer. My job was in a factory north and west of Saint Louis working third shift. Every Friday I would get off work at 7 am, go home and feed, take a nap then load my horse up and head for the Horse Palace in Weldon Springs. There I would show in the Friday Night Fun Show, stay overnight with my friend Laurie, then we would head together for whatever horse show was in the area on Saturday and Sunday. Sunday evening, I would drive home and after unloading Magic, head straight in to work my third shift. I was young and made up the sleep on Monday. This was my weekly pattern. One week, Laurie introduced me to a guy named Tom. He had a horse that lived at the Horse Palace. The three of us hung out every weekend after that and suddenly one week, Magic and I were at the Horse Palace for the weekend, but I didn't go to ride in a show, I just hung out with Tom. You all can guess where I'm going with this since most of you know my husband's name is Tom!

As a married couple, we drifted to mostly quarter horse types for hunters, although I continued to compete at hunter shows with Magic. As he grew older, he developed holes in the suspensory ligaments in his hind legs and had to retire from jumping. It was at this point my interest in dressage began.



PJ riding This Magic Moment aka "Alvin"

I think my success at hunt seat would have benefitted from an earlier interest in dressage. I discovered in dressage just how on the forehand my now old equine partner had been over the years. Striving to not teach that to my young quarter horse mare Missy was my new goal. We competed at the Missouri Equestrian Games and other shows in both dressage and jumping successfully prior to moving to IA. In IA, we did the same until I had to retire her due to cancerous growths which eventually killed her.

When Missy retired, we purchased a lovely Dutch mare named Oh Cleopatra. She came without her papers and after showing her for a few years we decided to breed her to a Paint stallion at Diaman H Stables in New Virginia, IA, where I had landed as the "English" instructor/trainer. We had a small place in Peru, but no indoor arena, so driving continued to be a part of life. Cleo blessed me with my next competition horse and his three younger sisters who would eventually move on to other owners. But This Magic Moment, aka Alvin, was a keeper. We took him to an American Warmblood inspection and obtained his registration while he was still on his mother's side. During his weanling and yearling life, Tom competed him at Sport Horse Prospects and Amateur Handler in hand, winning numerous awards. As a three and year old, Alvin and I competed mostly in Western Dressage. We earned over 80% from one judge in Introductory and attended the WDAA Western Dressage World Championship Show where we were Reserve Champions in the group Walk-Trot prospects and 6th overall in the world at Introductory. The following year, we were back again at Level One, winning one World Champion award and placing 6th overall in the world at this level.

It was definitely time to come back and focus on traditional Dressage and to do more teaching. I gave up having lesson horses and went to being the traveling instructor, giving lessons at various barns in the central IA area. With Alvin as my partner, we have competed successfully through Second Level in the traditional dressage arena at both schooling and at rated competitions. He helped me earn my Bronze Medal from the USDF. With his help, and a few rides on my sister's Oldenburg, Dynamo, I became eligible to reach my goal of participating in Part 2 of the USDF Learner Judge Program. I am excited that in September I passed my testing and am now considered an L graduate and will be able to judge dressage schooling shows. As an older adult, I recognize that someday I may not be able to ride a horse but will want to be able to stay involved in dressage. Now that involvement can include judging as well as teaching. But I don't plan to stop riding anytime soon. In 2023, Tom rode Cleo for his Century Club ride at the Tamarack/IADCTA Championship Show. She is now 28 years old and if we can continue to maintain her health and soundness, in 2025, I will be able to have a Century Club ride on her. What more can a girl who loves horses want out of life?



"Alvin" getting some well deserved pets

Dressage 4 Kids Clinic

Over the summer I went to my first Dressage 4 kids clinic at Hampton Green Farms in Michigan. It was such an amazing learning experience getting to work with Lendon Gray. Each day Lendon would give a written test to take and there would be different educational lectures. The lectures included how to heal a hoof abscesses, working with young stallions, and Kerrigan Gluch and Corie Bannons experience at the 2023 CHIO Rotterdam PAN AMS.



Hampton Green Farms

We were given goal setting sheets to fill out, and you were also required to audit all the other rider's and take notes on them. During my rides we worked on getting Zeke working all the way through his topline while maintaining the forward. On the second day Kerrigan Gluch got on Zeke for the first part of my lesson with Lendon which was so awesome watching her. It was overall, a wonderful clinic and such a great program. I am so excited to be a D4K team member and look forward to attending more clinics in the future.



Lendon Gray and Adalynn on Zeke

USDF Youth FEI Clinic

I had the privilege of participating in the USDF Region 4 Youth FEI Clinic in September at Providence Farms. The clinic serves as an educational opportunity for youth riders who are working to compete at FEI levels. Riders must apply and submit a riding video to be considered for the clinic. Only eight riders are chosen to participate in the clinic. The clinic consists of 2 days of private lessons, theory, and auditing. George Williams taught the clinic this year. George serves as the US Equestrian Dressage Youth coach and is currently the USDF President. It was an honor to have the opportunity to ride with him.

I enjoyed watching the other region 4 top youth riders. During my two rides we focused on sharpening my riding skills to enable the horse to use each part of his body correctly.

During the evening we had a team dinner which allowed for all the riders to get to know each other better. It also gave George the opportunity to develop a better relationship with each rider and discuss each participant's goals.

The Youth FEI Clinic was an incredible experience in working towards my future goals. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn from George and develop new friendships with other region 4 youth riders.



George Williams and Adalynn on Zeke



Tammy Lisi and Adalynn with Zeke

Custom Made

In October we brought home my new horse Custom Made A.K.A Custom. He is a 11 year old, 16.2 hand Danish warmblood. He has the sweetest personality and is so fun to be around. I am so excited to show him this year and continue to build my relationship with him.



Adalynn on Custom



Adalynn on Custom at Serenity Rose Farm with Emily Miles

Going to Nationals Freestyle by Molly Severn

USDF National Dressage Finals - Once in a Lifetime or Just the Beginning?

Dressage is a sport of continuous improvement - a reason why so many of us love it. I've been riding since before I can remember, but started out in the Western world with my family's mare Misty. I might have started with Western Pleasure, but I soon learned my heart belonged to Dressage.

The chance to compete at the USDF National Dressage Finals is an opportunity that many riders dream of, but may never get the chance to actually accomplish. Dressage Finals are the last stop on a year-long road for most riders. It begins with qualifying scores locally, then moves to Regional Championships, and riders that finish in the top of their classes get the chance to ride at the Kentucky Horse Park every November.

This past year my horse, Remington, and I had the chance to compete at the 2023 USDF National Dressage Finals! Wow... even after several months, it still feels a bit surreal to say out loud. But let me tell you, getting to that point is quite the mountain to climb. Starting in May of 2023, I took Remy to six different show weekends at our favorite place to play in the sandbox - Maffitt Lake Equestrian Center (now maybe second to the KHP :))

I spent my summer competing in two classes: 2nd Level Test Three and the 1st Level Musical Freestyle. By the last show in August, I had earned my qualifying scores for Regionals in both tests and was ready to get to work.

You know when you have those just really good show weekends? Well this year, my best weekend happened to be one of the most important. Remy and I won Reserve Champion in the 1st Level AA Musical Freestyle at Regionals which gave us an automatic spot to compete at the National Dressage Finals!



Molly and Remington at MLEC USDF Regionals



Well deserved placings at Regionals with thanks to Tempo Farm's coach Maggie Mossman

The Kentucky Horse Park - there are really no words to describe the horse capital of the world and the well-known equestrian competition venue at the heart of it all. I was lucky enough to have my mom, Patty, join me for my first ever KHP horse show experience. I refer to her as the Swiss Army Knife of Horse Show Moms and for those of you that know her know exactly what I mean! She always has whatever any rider may need at an arm's reach away, she's a braider-extraordinaire, and she's one of the top grooms in the business! I should probably increase her pay.... :)

I was able to get in a couple warm-up rides ahead of the big day and Remy was feeling great! We had many chances to walk the Green Mile (famously known as the turf walkway for both horse and rider to get from the barns to the outdoor riding rings) and get acquainted with the showgrounds. We even had the chance to hand walk in the Alltech Arena - the indoor main ring at KHP. Some horses really struggle with brand new environments and I'm happy to report that Remy was a gentleman all weekend! He walked straight into the Alltech with not a care in the world - in fact he was more interested in eating the fake plastic flowers placed around the arena rather than the thousands of seats and lots of vendors! What a good boy!



My 1st Level Musical Freestyle ride was scheduled for the last day of US Dressage Finals - we lucked out with absolutely wonderful weather all weekend and my Sunday morning warm up felt a bit like a dream. A bit chilly, but so much beautiful Kentucky sunshine and Remy was feeling fabulous. We walked into our show ring feeling ready to rock. Our test went great! A bit conservative compared to some of our outings at MLEC earlier in the year, but overall Remy did a great job in a practically brand new environment and I could not have been more proud of his attitude and effort.

Then, the waiting game began. US Dressage Finals classes place to 10 spots, but as you can imagine these classes have way more than 10 horse/rider entries. After we got Remy back to his stall with lots of carrots and apples, I made sure to take a moment and really appreciate where I was and the opportunities I was getting to experience - wow! No matter how the class finished, I was beyond proud to have a chance to be on the national dressage stage with one of our own homebred horses alongside my mom - the woman who instilled in me a deep love for horses and the equestrian world. No matter the results, I knew I had already won.

Remy and I finished 8th place in the U.S. Dressage Finals 1st Level AA Musical Freestyle class! Again - still absolutely mind blowing to be able to make a statement like that! We were even given the chance to do a victory lap in the Alltech Arena! It's a memory that's so clear it still feels like it was just yesterday, and I have a feeling that won't soon change.

To be able to represent USDF Region 4, as well as IaDCTA, in Kentucky was such an incredible experience. Cheers to the 2024 show season and the chance to do it again!

Have a good ride - Molly Foley Severn



Molly and Remington at Kentucky Horse Park for USDF Nationals

LAND SAFE !!

CLINIC HELD AT POWDER RIVER RANCH

Horses... spend enough time around them and the chances are near 100% that you will be injured, maybe even killed. Most of the time when something happens you tell your self that it wasn't the horses fault...he just tripped, I rode it badly... was there anything I could have done differently? I have been known to say that I don't have the instinct to do anything other than go down with the ship, or as some say, ride it to the ground. I have been fortunate that the worst that has happened to me were two broken collarbones and one serious concussion.

A few years ago I heard about a program called Land Safe. Like most people, I figured that this class was designed for upper level eventers, although Courtney King came to mind. (Courtney, a student of Lendon Gray's who was on the 2008 Olympic team suffered a TBI in 2010 when a horse she was cantering slipped and fell.) Shortly after becoming aware that the Land Safe program existed, I was at Otter Creek Horse Trials where I watched and photographed an Area IV rider have a rotational fall. She had clearly handled it differently than the other spills I had ever witnessed and walked away from it. The difference was that she had attended a Land Safe clinic. What is Land Safe? "Land Safe is a comprehensive training program that teaches riders not only a better way to navigate a fall but also by using these skills in any cases may reduce the chances of injury, but also may prevent a fall all together."

Powder River Ranch hosted a Land Safe clinic this past fall and four of our members either audited or participated in it which seemed like a fantastic opportunity to ask them about it. With that in mind here are some Q&A for **Meaghan Marinovich, Amanda Steffen, Lizzie Sauter, and Julie Kuhle.**

1. What impressed you about Danny Warrington's past with horses?

Besides his falls as a steeplechase rider, Denny also lost his wife in a fall. Clearly increasing rider safety through Land Safe is a personal passion for him. M.M.

Danny did a lot of Steeplechase and explained that 1 in every 16 rides ended in a fall. One of the things I found the most impressive was that Danny explained that while using his LandSafe technique he had only broken a couple of fingers in his falls. A.S.

Lizzie Danny's history as a steeplechase jockey has served him very well for this role! I believe he said their odds of falling was about 1 in every 20 races vs 1 in every few hundred times an event ride goes cross country. He had to get comfortable with ways to safely impact the ground with that kind of riding. He and his wife Kelli are an incredible team between their riding history and her gymnastics history to demonstrate and explain the mechanics of how to make falling safer! L.S.M. Danny had a few stories and statistics about steeplechase riders. Clearly he learned from his experiences! J.K.

2. Did you take gymnastics classes as a child? Did this help you with the tumbling part of the two day course are did it make you more apprehensive?

I took some gymnastics as a really little kid - it was not a factor for the clinic. M.M.

I did participate in competitive gymnastics when I was younger and I do think it helped with some of the tumbling as there was still some muscle memory present. One of the biggest issues I had in the beginning however was learning how to brace with my arms. I was very apprehensive at first because as a gymnast I had broken my left arm by sticking both arms out to catch myself from a fall. The biggest difference however is that my arms were straight during the gymnastics fall versus the bracing technique we were taught where there is a bend in your elbows. A.S.

I had a year or two of gymnastics as a child but it sure felt different as an adult. L.S.M.

2.4.and5. I audited the clinic as rolling on the ground just a bit makes me dissy for half an hour. Even without going through all of the exercises, you could learn the basics. J.K.

3. Best quote from the instructors?

Protect your Money- Maker. This was said numerous times. People are concerned about breaking an arm in a fall but what you must protect is your head! M.M.

Gravity always wins. A.S.

There were loads, but one was 'In chin we trust!' In order to make sure we were remembering to keep our chins tucked tight to our chest to allow us to roll and also keep our head inside the 'arm helmet-the helmet money can't buy!' which was a term they used to help us see how to utilize the braced position with our arms to protect our heads and disperse energy throughout our body when hitting the ground. L.S.M.

Not a quite but I heard this many many many times- Chin in and Protect your noggin. J.K.

4.Did all the tumbling make you dizzy?

Tumbling caused a bit of dissiness the first day. The instructors emphasized the importance of participant's hydration and eatinbreakfast. The number of people doing each exercise allowed any izziness to clear before going again. The second day there was no dizziness. M.M.

I did get a little dizzy at times but it wasn't awful. It was recommended to those that were prone to motion sickness to take medication prior to the class. A.S.

I didn't struggle with dizziness! Some of the rolls took one or two times to get used to, but because it was such a progressive series of exercises it built up both in skill but also tolerance of the motion. L.S.M.



5. The clinic was two days / 4 hours per day. Do you feel that the clinic was effective in this format?

This format (2 days- 4 hrs each) was just right. A one day clinic (8 hours) would have been too much in a day. M.M.

I thought that the two day format was extremely effective. I think that one day would not have been enough. Each day the first two hours were spent on the mats learning step by step how to fall and the second two hours were spent on the mechanical horse practicing the different types of falls (rotational, rearing, average fall, and emergency dismount). A.S.

Yes absolutely! It was so thorough and every exercise built on itself to set you up for success and understanding, plus it allowed for you to see lots of reps from others as well which was valuable . L.S.M

6. Were you ever taught how to fall when you were first learning how to ride?

No fall training as a kid. M.M.

I think that I might have been taught how to do an emergency dismount but it was a very slow technique and was likely not that effective based on what I learned during the LandSafe clinic. A.S.

No not really. Was taught a one rein stop for if I was getting taken off with and maybe discussed that sometimes you might need to emergency dismount but no real training . L.S.M.

I was never taught how to fall. I started riding as a very little kid and falling was part of riding. That may help teach not being fearful of a fall and maybe building some muscle memory to not brace. But we rode in fields so if your horse got away it was a long walk home. This taught the bad habit of holding onto the reins. The clinic used reins with the mechanical horse and dropping the reins is necessary to "build the cage" around your head. J.K.

7. What was your single biggest take away?

Biggest take away was to protect the head and roll away from the horse- dispersing as much impact from the fall as possible. Another take away regarding not holding on to the reins - Denny asked the group- When has your horse not been returned to you after a fall? (of course the answer was never) Let go of the reins, you will get your horse back! M.M.

You only get one head and you should do everything in your power to learn how to protect your most precious possession. A.S.

This is a super valuable experience for anyone physically able to participate. I feel better prepared to protect myself when a fall inevitably happens, and I'd like to retake it the next time they are in my area to keep working that muscle memory. L.S.M.

The biggest take away from the clinic was to tuck your chin in, put your arms in front of your head and build a round cage with your body to protect your head and allow you to roll away from the horse. I don't intend to use this new knowledge anytime soon but I did trip getting off a mower and immediately tried to roll onto my shoulder! J.K.

More information on this program may be found at [Land Safe Equestrian](#)



Gymnastic tumbling to start before using the "horse" to practice how to fall



How Legend Became Horses by Michelle Kalsem

A long time ago in the Northlunds, where jagged, rocky cliffs separate the windswept moorelands from the dark furious seas, existed giants. They were the keepers of the fortunes and they fought epic battles to preserve and shape their magical lands. One such giant was the golden haired, wild, chieftain Fionn MacCumhail, the leader of the Fianna, who led his soldiers of destiny across the Northlund's creating geographical pockmarks on the face of the lands and stealing secrets and magic from other tribes of giants. They created the Giants Causeway when they walked and marshes where they slept, and they cultivated giant forests where their protector fairies lived.

As you can imagine marauding armies of giants with their bags of magic and trickery didn't make many friends and after a few hundred centuries they realized their way of life and the magic was beginning to run out. After Fionn MacCumahil was killed his grandson Oscar, who was wise like his grandfather, realized it was the beginning of the end for the Northlunds, the noble giants and the magic, so he devised a plan to escape.

The official story was that Fionn's grandson Oscar, the Fianna's greatest warrior, died running away after he killed the High King Caibre in combat. But actually, Oscar was putting a plan into place. After the battle with Caibre the warriors of the Fianna were tricked and turned into hunting hounds, then lured away from protecting Oscar by fairy foxes. Oscar was trailed relentlessly by High King Caibre's loyalists across the moors, bogs and mountains of his homelands where he finally faked his death in the ocean near the Dun Na mBo. The pursuers said was while making his escape, Oscar broke his leg stepping into a rocky crag where he caught his foot and created the giant footsized, Dun Na mBo blowhole. They thought Oscar fell to his death on the jagged, rocky lined, coast where unable to swim because of his injuries, he succumbed to the cold and dark waters of the Atlantic and was swept to his grave.

Instead, Oscar recalling the countless stories his grandma used to tell him while they walked along the Giants Causeway when he was a child headed straight to her. She told him how she once tricked and terrified an angry giant named Benandonnor into believing his grandfather was a GIANT infant. Giving him quiet a fright, the would be killer fled back to his realm and consumed with fear he tore apart the Giant's Causeway as he went so as not to be followed. Oscar knew his grandmother would know what he should do. So Oscar confused his pursuers and doubled their armies over on themselves by jumping back and forth over the mountains of the Northlund and then he pretended to fall into the ocean and disguised his golden hair with sea weed and swam out into the deep. While his pursuers were fighting among themselves and searching for him, Oscar swam to his dear grandmothers where they had a good laugh about their follies.

But when Oscar asked grandma Oona what he should do, she was not encouraging, she was afraid for Oscar worried that, like his grandfather, one day he would not come home again. Oona told Oscar he must flee the Northlunds, to go and not return, she told him and Sigrid his wife to drink the last 2 drops of the magic that still existed in that place so as to disguise themselves as horses and to gallop thru the nights without stopping until they reached the Thin Place. Urged by his grandmothers tears and pleadings Oscar did exactly that. Though Oscar and Sigrid vowed to return one day, they drank the golden magic drops, then disguised they galloped thru the Northlunds for a thousand nights until they reached the Thin Place.

The magic of the Thin Place is temperamental and unpredictable one never knows where the Thin Place will take them or how to return. Oscar and Sigrid were delivered to the Between. Bound together they forever carried with them that drop of magic in their blood. Oscar inherited his grandfather's wisdom from the Salmon of Knowledge and his mother's beauty from Tir na nOg that never ages. Sigrid inherited kindness that knows no bounds and a coat that shimmers like the dew in dawn, untouchable like fog but desired as obsessively as the magic they left behind.

In the Between they race across the marshes, mountains and boughs they gallop wildly, dodging and outwitting the enemies of their imaginations and they never tire. The droplets of magic flow out with their sweat and when it rains the magic drips down to the horses all over the world giving them the magic! Mi Fioon MacCool received the magic of the Fianna warriors' bravery, the Salmon of Knowledge's wisdom, and the trademark wild golden locks from the magic of the Northlund.



Michele Kalsem on Mi Fioon Mac Cool

PC Dani Kalsem



NEWS UPDATE



Congratulations are in order! As we read in the Fall 2023 edition of The Collection, Alex undertook the USDF L Judge Program. We are pleased to announce that she passed her USDF "L" judge testing with distinction! This is the highest level that you can pass the "L" Exam with and means eligibility to go forward to the "r" program.

Congratulations Alex!



Announcing that **Adalynn Nelson** has received the coveted Unicorn Scholarship from [Lendon Gray and Dressage4kids](#) and the Christian Kennedy Scholarship. We established the Unicorn Scholarship in early 2018 to bring an Iowan riding student to Wellington for a week. Our first Unicorn was Anna Dykstra. The second was Maleah McGrew, and now Adalynn. The purpose is to expose a young, talented rider from Iowa to Wellington. Adalynn will have the opportunity to watch the Winter Intensive Training program (WIT) with Lendon Gray and meet WIT riders. She will take some lessons on my Joey and possibly with someone else. She'll get to go to Friday Night Lights freestyle and just groove on the feeling of Wellington. It mirrors a fateful trip Christian Kennedy and Kelli Parsons made when they were young students. Due to the specifics of the situation, the trip sort of fell apart and I flew them home. The Unicorn Scholarship corrects that trip. I will be there with Adalynn and her mom Amber Pate-Nelson for part of the time. Everyone welcome her. She can watch lessons, see some showing, and generally enjoy the amazing horse community that Wellington is. Adalynn is a very gifted young rider and I have high hopes for her!

Anne Baber-Wallis



In October 2023, IaDCTA member **Mary Curran** showed her 6-year-old OTTB Butler at the Thoroughbred Incentive Program (TIP) national championships in Aiken SC. They won the Training Dressage and Beginner Novice Combined Test divisions.

Mary & husband Kevin moved to Aiken in 2021 after 30 years in Earlham, Iowa. Mary purchased Butler in 2022 from Full Gallop Farm in Aiken, which specializes in restarting racehorses. The 16.2 hand gelding raced 4 times in 2021 before retiring.

The TIP program was created by the Jockey Club to encourage retraining of horses after their racing careers are over. A national TIP Championship show is held every year offering classes in English and Western disciplines. Horses must qualify by competing in a show during the prior year that offers TIP awards to participants. Unlike the Retired Racehorse Project (RRP) competition, horses can qualify and compete every year in the TIP championships, not just in the first year of training.



Mary Curran and Butler at Stableview in Aiken SC

IN OTHER NEWS

MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT



Amanda Steffen



Derith Vogt, Chris Heydon,
Julie Kuhle and Mary Curran



Evan Fleck



Leann Nelson



Bryanna Kalsem coffee break



Meaghan Bridick and Lizzie Sauter



Carolyn Woodring and Pool Boy
pc Gwen Clement



Connie and Chase Conis



Derith Vogt, at Matsell Park



Lisa Grove Miller



Dani and Bryanna Kalsem NHH



Larry and Lisa Etzel



Robin Sprafka and Rick Hildreth



Rhea Allen on Len-



Natalie Tomaras



Shannon Soot
pc Gwen Clement



Sharon Grief festing



Alex Novotny-Pasker



Tom and Tammy Lisi



Tracy O'Dell



David Law pc Gwen Clement



Tobi Sharon Greene



Jackson Williams pc Gwen



Molly Severn at KHP

**PRR hosts Cathy Jones
Forsberg Clinic**



Tammy Lisi and Adalynn Nelson



Ava, and Meaghan Bur-



Lizzie Sauter on Gia at Bent Creek



Meaghan Marinovich-Burdick on Lenny



Alex Novotny-Pasker on



Meaghan Marinovich-Burdick on Lenny



Lizzie Sauter McClain



Alex Novotny-Pasker on



Julie Kuhle on Griff



Julie Kuhle on Griff



Kelli Rose Brown on Rifle



Lizzie Sauter McClain on



Kelli Rose Brown on Rifle



The Eighty Dollar Champion

Author - Elizabeth Letts

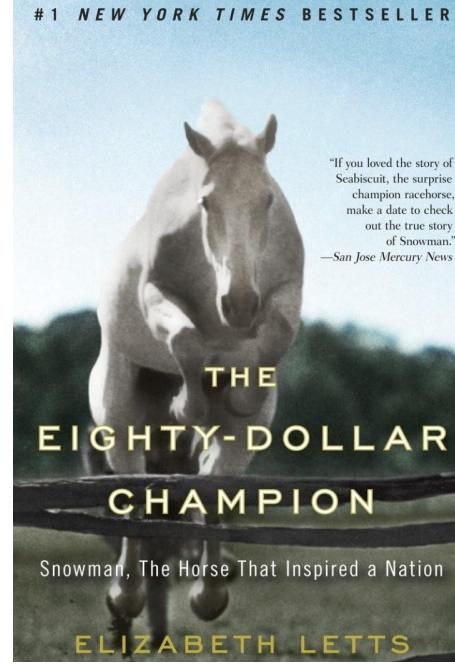
Review Nena Denman

This #1 New York Bestseller is the true story of Snowman, the renown American Show Jumping Champion. A well written book, it explains the development of Show Jumping in the United States after World War II. This is done while sharing the story of Harry de Leyer, an immigrant from Holland, who struggles to make a life for himself and his family in a new country.

Harry's story of courage, intelligence, and hard work is eloquently told. He appeared in the American horse show world with no money but great skill and determination. The wealthy Show Jumping owners were shocked when Harry started winning. Details explain different shows, courses, and jumps. Other riders, such as notables William Steinkraus and Frank Chapot, became part of Harry's story. Much of which could not have happened without his mount, Snowman.

Snowman's story was one of impossible odds. Harry bought Snowman for \$80, after an auction, off a truck headed to the slaughterhouse. The horse's background was unknown, but due to the sores on his body, one might deduce Amish plow horse experience. In any case, his conformation did not lend itself to jumping. He had a kind look in his eye, and Harry discovered that jumping was what he loved to do.

If you are in the mood for an informative book about jumping and a Cinderella-like story about the relationship between a man and his horse, I highly recommend "The Eighty-Dollar Champion" as your next read. I couldn't put it down!



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TREASURER'S REPORT

December 2023

End of the Year Report 2023

<u>Beginning Checking Acct Bal.</u>	\$17,138.33			
CREDITS:	This period	Prior period	Total To Date	
Horse Nominations - Cash	\$90.00	\$465.00	\$555.00	
Membership Dues - Cash	\$280.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,880.00	
Horse Nomination - Pay Pal	\$0.00	\$771.50	\$771.50	
Membership - Pay Pal	\$0.00	\$1,278	\$1,277.84	
<u>Sponsorships</u>	\$210.00	\$545	\$755.26	
Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$1,025.44	\$1,025.44	
Award Fund - Raffle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Annual Banquet	\$0.00	\$1,282.00	\$1,282.00	
Show	\$0.00	\$2,971.76	\$2,971.76	
Clinic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Misc. Advertising/Arena Rental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Misc. interest CDs	\$36.19	\$366.59	\$402.78	
TOTAL CREDITS	\$616.19	\$10,305.39	\$10,921.58	
DEBITS:				
Operations: Printing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Banquet <u>Waivers/CC</u>	\$0.00	-\$1,486.86	-\$1,486.86	
Website Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Banquet/Misc.	\$0.00	-\$133.71	-\$133.71	
Awards/Ribbons	\$0.00	-\$2,842.08	-\$2,842.08	
Education - Clinic	\$0.00	-\$50.00	-\$50.00	
Shows	\$0.00	-\$175.00	-\$175.00	
Insurance	\$0.00	-\$150.00	-\$150.00	
Membership dues/USDF	-\$346.00	-\$1,422.00	-\$1,778.00	
Conference, Convention, Meeting	\$0.00	-\$278.92	-\$278.92	
Misc. - office supplies/licenses	\$0.00	-\$102.66	-\$102.66	
TOTAL DEBITS	-\$346.00	-\$6,651.23	-\$6,997.23	
NET INCOME	\$270.19	\$16,956.62	\$17,918.81	
RESERVES/DESIGNATIONS:				
Betsy Cooper Grant	\$0.00	\$734.80	\$734.80	
Clinic/Eduz/Con/Trophies	\$0.00	\$132.08	\$132.08	
ITBOA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL RESERVES/DESIGNATIONS			\$866.88	
SAVINGS	\$0.71	\$2,202.77	\$2,203.48	
Checking Acct Balance-current	\$17,408.52			
Total Reserves/Designations	\$866.88			
Outstanding Debits	\$176.05			
Daily Operating Balance	\$16,365.59			
Checking				\$17,408.52
Certificate of Deposit	\$0.00	\$10,931.73	\$10,931.73	
Savings	\$0.71	\$2,202.77	\$2,203.48	
Total Bank Balances				\$30,543.73

Year End Data Comparisons

Monetary	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Awards	\$720.89	\$164.30	\$1,532.84	\$1,582.39	\$2,842.08
Banquet	\$90.04	\$141.41	NA	\$181.21	\$204.86
Betsy Cooper Grant	\$695.97	\$769.97	\$809.97	\$574.80	\$734.80
Clinics	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$225.00	\$523.38	\$0.00
Club Express	\$389.50	\$422.19	\$834.15	\$2,477.46	
Horse Nominations	\$600.00	\$510.00	\$945.00	\$1,231.48	\$13,26.50
Insurance	\$588.00	\$530.00	\$150.00	-\$150.00	\$150.00
Membership	\$2,385.00	\$3175.00	\$5771.00	\$34,28.82	\$31,57.84
Misc.	\$77.46	\$23.02	-\$21.01	-\$29.55	\$300.12
Shows	\$658.67	\$1155.00	\$1,753.76	\$13,86.19	\$2,796.76
Silent Auction	\$1,080.81	\$711.00	\$1,373.51	\$626.00	\$10,25.44
<u>Sponsorships</u>	\$490.00	\$660.00	\$100.00	\$323.21	\$755.26
USDF	\$1,176.00	\$1670.00	\$2,144.00	\$1,182.00	\$1,778.00
Ending Balance	\$14,884.42	\$19,009.68	\$23,562.17	\$27,002.48	\$30,543.73
Memberships	56	64	82	85	63
Horse Nominations	37	35	61	83	83

2023 Spring Ahead Show -

Income: \$701.76 Expenses - Facility \$150.00 Awards/Ribbons: \$100.00 Insurance: \$150.00 Profit: +\$301.76

2023 Championship Show - Shared with Tamarack Stables

Income: \$2245.00 Expenses - Venue/Judge/Awards/Ribbons: \$1308.00 Profit: +\$937.00