



# THE COLLECTION

The Monthly Newsletter of the Iowa Dressage & Combined Training Association

*For Members By Members*

January 2011

## Highlights:

<b>BOARD &amp; CONTACT INFO</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>TREASURER'S REPORT &amp; BOARD MINUTES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>IADCTA NEWS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>AWARDS BANQUET FORM</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>LESSONS LEARNED</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>DINNER WITH THE JUDGE</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>ABSENTEE BALLOT &amp; MEET THE CANDIDATES</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>CHANGE OF HAND</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>IN BRIEF</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>MARKETPLACE</b>	<b>19</b>



GROUP MEMBER ORGANIZATION



# Happy New Year From IaDCTA

# ABOUT IADCTA

## IaDCTA Board & Committee Information

### BOARD MEMBERS

#### President

**Laird Nossuli**—301-461-9451  
lnossuli@gmail.com

#### Vice President

**Marcia Young**—515-223-3120  
marciamjy@aol.com

#### Secretary

**Heather Huntoon**—515-778-6687  
dressage2003@yahoo.com

#### Treasurer

**Patricia Foley**—515-597-3294  
foleys@huxcomm.net

**PJ Koehler**—636-577-1449  
dressagebasics@gmail.com

**Vicki Gatter**—515-221-9725  
vgatter@networkiowa.com

**Heather McCauley**—515-710-0685  
heather.mccauley@elversonlaw.com

**Rachel Wehrheim**—319-624-2546  
medicineriverfarms@yahoo.com

**Gloria Olson**—515-274-3430  
olsong2@mchsi.com

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Vicki Gatter**—515-221-9725  
vgatter@networkiowa.com

**Dawn Sassatelli**—515-975-6710  
SASSATD@nationwide.com

**Gloria Olson**—515-274-3430  
olsong2@mchsi.com

### VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

**Laird Nossuli**—301-461-9451  
lnossuli@gmail.com

### MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

**Trudy Tatum**—515-515-451-8893  
tattatum1@yahoo.com

### COMPETITIONS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

**PJ Koehler**—636-577-1449  
dressagebasics@gmail.com  
*Equipment, Competitions*

**Rachel Wehrheim**—319-624-2546  
medicineriverfarms@yahoo.com  
*Championship Show*

**Loline Voegtlin**—515-981-9469  
*Year-end Awards*

**Heather McCauley**—515-710-0685  
heather.mccauley@elversonlaw.com

### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

**Marcia Young**—515-223-3120  
marciamjy@aol.com

**Laird Nossuli**—301-461-9451  
lnossuli@gmail.com

### YOUTH BOARD

**Heather Huntoon**—515-778-6687  
dressage2003@yahoo.com

### YOUTH LIAISON

**Taylor Hildreth**  
trhloveshorses@gmail.com

**Alex Porter**—515-450-9444  
perfectme100@yahoo.com

**IF YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED  
IN A COMMITTEE, PLEASE CON-  
TACT ONE OF THE MEMBERS  
LISTED ABOVE!**

## THE COLLECTION

PUBLISHING RATES for Clinics, Show Bills &

Other ANNOUNCEMENTS:

	Members	Nonmembers
<b>Full Page</b>	\$30.00	\$45.00
<b>Half Page</b>	\$25.00	\$35.00
<b>Quarter Page</b>	\$10.00	\$25.00
<b>Business Card</b>	\$7.00	\$15.00
<b>Change of Hand</b>	Free	\$5.00
<b>Horsin' Around</b>	Free	\$5.00
<b>Marketplace</b>	\$30.00	\$30.00

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** include clinics and shows. Member rates apply to clinics and shows sponsored by an individual IaDCTA member. Nonmember rates apply to clinics and shows sponsored by groups other than the IaDCTA.

**CHANGE OF HAND** is our classified advertising section. Each item is limited to a maximum of 20 words per month and each member is limited to 2 items per month.

**HORSIN' AROUND** is our listing of local and regional events. It includes only the event name, date and contact information.

**MARKETPLACE** is our advertising section for professionals and facilities. Submit a black and white, business card size listing for inclusion. A discount of \$10.00 per month applies to ads running for 6 consecutive months.

Send all materials and announcements to:

**Email:** collectioneditor@hotmail.com

**Mail:** 2180 NE 104th Street, Mitchellville, IA 50169

Please send payment for any submissions to:

Patricia Foley, Treasurer

55789 Oak Blvd, Huxley, IA 50124

***Materials are due by the 25th of each month and will not be printed until payment is received.***

*IaDCTA is a USDF Group Member Organization (GMO), and all members are automatically USDF Group Members (GMs). For USDF Participating Membership, members must apply directly to USDF.*

**We're Online: [www.iadcta.org](http://www.iadcta.org) or visit our Facebook page**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 11** Awards Banquet reservation deadline.

**January 14-16** Marina Parris-Woodhead Clinic, Canterbrooke Equestrian Center, Ames, Iowa. Contract: Stana Hanson, stanab123@hotmail.com

**January 16** Annual Awards Banquet and Year End Meeting—4:00 PM, Location: Colby Park Lodge, Windsor Heights, Iowa. Register online at iadcta.org or contact: Heather McCauley, 515-710-0685 — heather.mccauley@elversonnlaw.com

**January 22-23** USDF L Program, Stoney Meadow Farms, Bonner Spring, Kansas. Contact: Vicki Gatter, 515-221-9725 — vgatter@networkiowa.com

**February 13** Dinner with the Judge, Okoboji Grill, Ankeny, Iowa. Registration required. Register online at iadcta.org or contact: Vicki Gatter, 515-221-9725 — vgatter@networkiowa.com

## JANUARY 2011

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## FEBRUARY 2011

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



Sherie Vermeer and Zeus at IaDCTA Schooling Show & Series Championship

# TREASURER'S REPORT

November 30, 2010

Opening Working Balance		3,227.31
Income		
Collection - Ad	45.00	
IEC 10/29-31 School/Champ Show fees	4,105.00	
IEC 10/29-31 Admission Donations	2,116.00	
Classics - USDF non-owner fee refund	41.20	
Treasurer, Dallas Co. - IaDCTA trailer registration, P+H refund	0.50	
Memberships (\$385) + Nominations (\$45)	425.00	
Club Express - Memberships	585.00	
Total Income	<u>7,317.70</u>	7,317.70
Expenses		
IEC 10/29-31 School/Champ Show refund	15.00	
repay N. Wehrheim for IEC SS/CH food bills	626.16	
repay R. Wehrheim for IEC SS/CH bills	402.35	
repay S. Frederick for stocking show boxes	154.77	
USDF memberships (2 primary)	34.00	
Club Express - website fees	60.98	
Total Expenses	<u>1,293.26</u>	1,293.26
Transfer to/(from) Reserves - ITBOA TB sponsorship	-	
Transfer to/(from) Reserves - ITBOA TB Award	-	
Transfer to/(from) Reserves - Betsy Coester Grant	-	
Transfer to/(from) Reserves - Clinic/Educational Fund	200.00	
Total Change in Reserves	<u>200.00</u>	
Ending Working Balance		9,251.75
Total Reserves		6,960.97
<b>Total Bank Balance</b>		<u><u>16,212.72</u></u>
<b>US Bank Checking Account</b>		<b>10,612.72</b>
<b>Certificate of Deposit US Bank</b>		<b>5,600.00</b>
<b>Reserve Balances:</b>		
<b>IaDCTA Emergency Fund:</b>	3,000.00	
<b>ITBOA:</b>	500.00	
<b>Betsy Coester Grant Fund</b>	1,085.97	
<b>Clinic/Educational Fund</b>	2,375.00	
	<u>6,960.97</u>	

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The IaDCTA board meetings are open to all members! We would love for you to join us to give your input OR just to listen. Contact a board member if you are interested in attending, and we can make sure you get the most updated information on the date, time, and location!

**Present:** Laird Nossuli, Heather McCauley, Heather Huntoon, Vicki Gatter, Dawn Sassatteli, Marcia Young, PJ Koehler, Gloria Olsen, Pat Foley

**Meeting called to Order @ 7:00 p.m.**

Review of November Minutes: Motion to approve as written- Gloria O. 2<sup>nd</sup> by- Vicki G. and All in Favor.

Approval of Agenda: Need to go over 501c3 info. And also make time to discuss meeting with Maffit Lake Equestrian Center.

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES CONT.

**Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Pat F. Went over the IaDCTA Schooling Show and Series Championship. Total Income: \$11,551.00. Total Expenses: \$10,541.86. Ending Balance (credit): \$1,009.14. Monthly budget, Ending Working Balance: \$9,251.75. Total Reserves: \$6,960.97. Total Bank Balance: \$16,212.72. There was a donation of \$200.00 that was put into the Clinic and Educational Fund, which now holds \$2,375.00. Considering transferring money into the Betsy Coester Grant Fund. It is currently at \$1,085.97. Motion to divide credit from Iowa Sport Horse Festival, like in Rachel's emails made by Marcia Y. 2<sup>nd</sup> by- Heather M. All in favor. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report- Gloria O. 2<sup>nd</sup> by- PJ K. and All in Favor.

**President's Report:** \*Membership/ Renewals: so far about 55 renewed members for 2011.

\*Nominations for 2011 Board and Officers: There were a few members that would like to be on the board but missed the deadline. Board decided they can be write ins and that next year the rules need to be more clearly defined before the nominations deadline.

## Old Business

\*Year End Award Questions and Issues: Not a ton of people that qualified. Possibly not enough shows and because of the change in how it was done, maybe some confusion as to how to get year end awards.

\*Annual Meeting/ Banquet: menu is amazing, thank you to Gloria O. for all her time and effort in putting it together. Laird will put together an outline of things to discuss at the meeting. The majority of the time at the banquet should be spent socializing. Date is January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, from 4-8 PM.

\*Member Handbook: Laird put together a great table of contents. PJ will cover the Competitions and Awards Committee information. Laird will cover IaDCTA Grants and the majority of the other information. Laird is also purchasing binders for purchase for people who want a hard copy of the Member Handbook.

\*Dinner with the Judges: Eileen could do February 27<sup>th</sup> as a second date if needed because of inclement weather. Wonderful menu and organization of things done by Vicki. Rachel will bring a screen. People can purchase tickets on the website, limited number of people allowed. Riders need to have their videos of their rides in by mid-January.

\*2011 Classics: need to look at insurance policy about contractor coverage.

\*2011 Schooling Show Series: Fantasy Shows at MLEC will be run by Amanda Christensen, and IaDCTA will provide volunteers, like runners, scribes, ring stewards, and provide an extra dressage ring if needed. We are excited about working with Nebraska Dressage Association. Tim Hott is building the judges stands, special thanks for that. Jimmy and Anne possibly running the May 7<sup>th</sup> (Warm Up to the Classics) to help train the volunteers for the Classics.

## New Business

### 2011 General Planning

\*Volunteer Recruitment and Retention: 7 hours minimum per horse and rider combination. Need to have a better volunteer committee. Have hours available for viewing. Need to have a list of Key Volunteer Positions and a description of what is involved. The "volunteer dollar" can be used toward entry fees and it will be use it or lose it. Introducing Volunteer Achievement Awards? Gifts for volunteers that have really gone above and beyond.

Survey Results: overall members think the club really improved this year. 81% plan on renewing membership in 2011. 67% recommended that a friend join the club. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.** Motion by PJ K. and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marcia Y. All in favor.

By Heather Huntoon

IaDCTA Schooling Show & Series Championship  
Iowa Sport Horse Festival  
October 29-31, 2010

As of 12/15/10

Income

Show fees (entries, stalls)	8,110.00	
Admission donations	2,116.00	
Program ads	75.00	
Show sponsorships	<u>1,250.00</u>	
Total Income	11,551.00	11,551.00

Expenses

Show refund (entry)	15.00	
Food bills (N. Wehrheim)	626.16	
Miscellaneous Show bills (R. Wehrheim)	402.35	
Restock Show boxes (S. Frederick)	154.77	
Hodge's Badge Co., rider numbers (PJ Koehler)	189.50	
Trick Riders (A. Petersen)	500.00	
Show judge, course design fees (B. Coester)	450.00	
Show judge, course design fees (S. Hauschild)	150.00	
Show judge fees (N. Denman)	490.00	
Rshow judge fees (R. O'Bea)	525.00	
Iowa Equestrian Center - rental fees	4,437.00	
Pella Printing - Show program	851.72	
Whispering Pines - Show awards	715.50	
Wristbands (R. Wehrheim)	42.79	
Transport IaDCTA Show trailer to IEC ( S. Visser)	80.00	
Hodge's Badge Co., Show ribbons	<u>912.07</u>	
Total Expenses	10,541.86	10,541.86

Ending Balance - credit 1,009.14

# YEAR-END BANQUET AND AWARDS CEREMONY

**JANUARY 16, 2011, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**\$25.00/Adults      \$10/Jr/YR-12 & Under**

## **COLBY PARK LODGE**

**6900 School Street**

**Windsor Heights, Iowa**

**Come join us on January 16, 2011, at the Colby Park Lodge. Colby Park Lodge is a brand new facility located at 69th & School Streets (behind Windsor Heights' Wal-Mart) featuring open beam ceilings, historic brooks, outdoor terrace, and stone fireplace.**

**After the butler-passed Hors d'oeuvres and great camaraderie, dinner will include:**

- Garden Salad - Market Spring Mix Topped with Tomato, Carrot, Red Onion, Cucumber, Focaccia Croutons and Feta Cheese, Served with Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing and Sliced South Union Focaccia
- Roasted Chicken stuffed with Feta and Spinach and Topped with a Parmesan Cream sauce (vegetarian option available if designated on registration)
  - Green Beans Almondine
  - Dauphinoise Potatoes
  - Dessert by our own Gloria Olson!
- Water, Iced Tea, Coffee, Red and White Wine, Domestic Beer

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY JANUARY 11, 2011.** Register online at [iadcta.org](http://iadcta.org) or return the following form with check made payable to IaDCTA.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of Adults:** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. of JR/YR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vegetarian Option:** \_\_\_\_\_ (place number in party above requiring vegetarian option)

Return form by January 11, 2011, to:

Heather McCauley, 2180 NE 104th St., Mitchellville, IA 50169

## TAKE-HOME NUGGETS FROM THE 2010 USDF SYMPOSIUM—PART 1

BY EILEEN OSTLUND/BETSY COESTER GRANT ARTICLE

There's nothing like attending the USDF Convention and Symposium to stave off winter riding doldrums. At the Convention, there were lively discussions: Should helmets be required at all levels? (Yes.) Do we want a National Championship Show? (Maybe.) What can we do about instances of bad judging? (Send in your test sheets to USDF if you think comments and scores are examples of poor judging.) Plus there were chances to meet and mingle with dressage comrades from all USDF Regions and a few shopping opportunities for horsey stuff. Not to mention the meeting was in Jacksonville, Florida – an acceptable December venue for Midwesterners, although the locals whined when temperatures dipped into the 50's!

Following the convention, there was a two-day symposium on the newly issued 2011 tests. Lilo Fore (I) and Gary Rockwell (O) tag-teamed the symposium. As an L education program graduate, I also attended the pre-symposium day when Lilo and Gary worked with all the horses and riders for the event. Both clinicians were informative and entertaining – so eager to share their insights that we auditors had to prohibit them from speaking into their microphones at the same time to avoid auditory cacophony. Over the Symposium days, all tests of each level from Intro through Fourth were demonstrated. Lilo served as the trainer/coach for the riders and Gary judged the tests "live" over a microphone. Audience-submitted questions were covered during breaks. Significant changes in the 2011 tests compared to the 2007 versions were emphasized both from a riding and judging perspective. Lilo and Gary were consistently "on the same page of music" with regard to correct riding and training, pointing out the expected developments as one progresses up the levels.

After three days of "chair riding", I came back with a notebook full of notes and a few diagrams – lots of tidbits, details, and pithy sayings. I've always felt that if I can come away from a riding lesson with a nugget or two that sticks in my mind and body, it's been a good experience. So, through this article and the one next month, I will share some things that were pointed out or emphasized in the Symposium, with the hope that one or two will be a nugget you can use. I'll start with excerpts from my notes during the Intro through First Level sessions and continue with Second through Fourth Levels in the next submission. Some points are test- or level-specific and some pertain to riders and horses at any level, whether you do or don't care to show.



### Introductory Level

- Intro C has been added and includes canter (part of a circle in each direction).
- Submission is the only Collective Mark with a coefficient of 2. Impulsion no longer has a coefficient at Intro. The Collective Marks for Rider are now split into three separate scores (in all tests Intro through Fourth Level). Rider scores address position, correct/effective use of aids, and harmony. Overall, Intro has less focus on the horse, more on the rider. The Intro level is primarily developed to be a rider test although there is no prohibition against a professional using the test as an introductory show experience for a green horse.
- At Intro level, working trot rising is required but the rider may sit a few steps into/out of transitions. If a rider is sitting the entire trot during an Intro test, this is an error, and the judge should ring the bell.
- Working trot – reins for contact, not to confine. Use enough aids to be sure the horse is working and the rider is not working too hard.
- For the free walk, the description of "complete freedom" does not mean on the buckle. Can have complete freedom with or without contact.

Continued on page 9



- Free walk - if rider looks high as ending diagonal, will shorten frame and horse will not object to resuming contact.
- If horse is busy with bit, need to minimize rein activity.
- Rider's arms should move in the walk and the canter.
- Keep positive tension in down transitions.
- Change posting diagonal when the bend changes is advised. It is OK to change the posting diagonal at X or at the end of the long diagonal. (Although posting diagonal is not specified for dressage, posting on the correct diagonal assists the horse's balance.)

For transitions that are between letters, do when the horse is balanced the best.

### Training Level

- Stretchy circle is in all Training level tests. In Training 1, stretchy circle is early. Many horses move better after the stretchy circle. Stretchy circle – rider should keep arms at side, allow rein to ooze forward through the hands.
- Immobility is included in Directive Ideas for the halt. Directive Ideas are more detailed than prior test versions (all tests, all levels).
- Stable core = dexterity in extremities.
- Rhythm is more important than expression.
- Free Walk, don't throw reins at the horse or permit the horse to grab and root; allow stretch. "Let the shoulders go". For Medium Walk to Free Walk and also for Stretchy Circle – "horse stretches from a quiet release".
- Ease and calmness of transitions impacts rider score of harmony.
- For horses that stiffen into canter – need lateral suppleness to canter. Establish inner bend first and sit a few steps. Ensure horse is supple to the bend prior to (not during) canter depart.
- Rising trot – should be pivot around knee, like a metronome, slow up and slow down.
- No extra points for sitting the trot – not required!
- Look up before up transition to canter.
- Down transitions are like shifting gears – need to use the gas pedal or the engine will stall.
- If the horse's back is tense, the shoulders are restricted.
- Horses in nature do not alternate head right and left (head wagging), this is always rider induced.
- Training 3: For trot loop movements, change bend at quarterlines. Should not be triangle pattern or same bend throughout. Practice by starting and finishing with a 10M circle. There should be a moment of straightness between bends.
- If rider's hands are too high, this shortens the horse's poll.
- When rider's legs stretch down around the horse, they are much more influential on the horse and helps promote uphill balance.
- Stirrup length must be such to allow sufficient seat surface to influence horse.
- Roundness at training level – more of a "banana" shape. You don't want to feel like you are riding a stick.

Continued on page 10

## First Level

- Rising trot is allowed throughout all first level tests –rider’s choice to rise or sit the trot. Don’t go from rising trot to sitting trot if that diminishes the horse’s movement; e.g. leg-yield – want to introduce the difficulty without the horse noticing.
- Leg yield now sometimes away from the judge, can assess activity and straightness of horse and rider. OK to do rising trot for leg yield. If choose to do sitting trot, sit a little before movement starts. Guide outside front leg to arena letter in leg yield. Leg-yield towards the judge – easy to assess if the horse is overbent. Leg-yield, in general, should minimize the bend – it is less than on a 20 M circle or for turn at A.
- Stretchy circle – will not get better score if horse goes with loose reins/very low. Stretchy circle must start with the correct bend. Important to practice the circle shape (instead of the “state of Texas” outline).
- Lengthening is not created at the letter when you arrive. If horse speeds up in lengthenings, strides may be shorter. Consider a person walking – long slow strides versus fast, short ones. Don’t push hands forward to go forward. Your reins are not the gas pedal!
- Nodding head at canter – rider’s shoulders need to follow throughness over the back.
- Any rider position behind vertical leads to incorrect “front to back” riding.
- First 1- 10M half circles – should be about one horse length of straightness between the two half circles. Do not want horse to lose energy, activity, or length of stride in ½ circles at trot.
- Horse tilts head if falling over shoulder on that side.
- Any issue with straightness interferes with engagement. Straightness starts with very early training.

...Part 2 next month...



# LESSONS LEARNED

BY KIMBERLY WESTGATE / COURTESY OF  
SANDRA BOMMERT-ZION

## LESSONS LEARNED

### **...On Herd Mentality:**

Horses evolved in herds, and their adaptations for survival are all based around herd mentality. In essence, a herd is a hierarchy. Somebody's the boss. Somebody's the second-in-command, and so on down the line... and at the bottom, somebody is the grunt.

What isn't so obvious to the untrained eye, is that the boss doesn't associate with the grunt, especially in a large herd. And the lowest-ranked horse will NEVER hang around the boss - there's too much of a gap in rank. A horse takes direction from everyone above him, but will only hang around the horse ONE RANK above him, and one rank below (whom he can boss around). Within a herd, trouble-makers are disciplined by being pushed away (kicked/bitten). A horse that feels pushed away from his herd knows that he is vulnerable to predators. Therefore, he will suck it up and behave himself, to earn acceptance again.

### **...On Establishing Dominance:**

This one is misinterpreted as often as not. The phrase "teach him who's boss" comes up all the time, and it's a little misleading. To us, our horses are our friends, our pets, our family members. But to them, we are a herdmate, pure and simple.

The key is that when you are working with your horse, the two of you are the whole herd. As a herd, somebody has to be boss. In the interest of safety and achievement, the boss must be you. Horses are perfectly content to follow. A horse will only attempt to take the lead if he feels a power vacuum (in other words, he isn't confident in your leadership).

You need to be the boss, but it's important not to outrank him by 8 notches either - he simply won't associate with you if he is overly intimidated. You can direct him, command his respect, but avoid being domineering. He must yield to your direction, follow your guidance, but he needs to trust you and be comfortable as your herdmate - thus you need to be the "horse" that's *one* rank above him.

### **...On Interaction:**

As much as we might like to believe it, horses don't do what we request of them because they love us. There is certainly a bond between horse and rider, don't get me wrong. But a horse follows your directions because he respects you. Because he trusts that you won't lead him into harm. And most importantly, because you rank a notch higher than him, and he knows that there are consequences to disobeying. He'll get "pushed out of the herd" (disciplined) and will do what he needs to, in order to be accepted by his herd (you) again. Not only do you need to treat him as a horse, but you need to behave as one yourself.

### **...On "Courage Under Fire":**

Horses don't make decisions the way we do, based on logic and weighing pros and cons. In a pressure situation, they make a choice between *fight* or *flight* - that is, to face/challenge whatever threatens them, or escape it. Whatever seemingly odd, mystifying behaviour your horse exhibits under stress (be that stress environmental, during training, or within a herd), will be some presentation of either fight or flight. Remembering this helps with knowing what your next action should be.

### **...On Attention Span:**

This one's simple - horses don't have a very long attention span. They become bored easily and distracted even more easily. Expecting a horse to devote sixty minutes of concentration, the way a student would in calculus class, just isn't realistic. Limit the "new concept" portion of training sessions to 15-20 minutes - keep it short and sweet.

### **...On Memory:**

A horse's memory is great for what he views as major events. Something that terrified him will stay in memory for months or years. Something appetizing like the sound of grain in a bucket? He'll never forget that either. But for small occurrences, memory is short - if he misbehaves, you've got a very narrow window of opportunity in which to discipline him (generally within 3 seconds to react)... if you take a minute to react, he's already forgotten and doesn't know what he's in trouble for, so the discipline is ineffective. In the interest of keeping him happy with his work, end training sessions on a good/successful note - a positive memory.

Continued on page 12

### **...On Learning:**

Horses are extremely intelligent. They learn differently from humans, but they are *constantly* learning. It's a common misconception to think that horses are only learning while we're trying to teach them something. Wrong! They learn from what's around them, while you lead them, groom them, saddle them, ride them, walk them out, and so on. And they learn things we don't want them to, as easily as the things we do want them to learn. Because of this, it's just as important to avoid situations where you inadvertently teach something "wrong", as it is to create situations where you teach desired behaviours.

### **...On Training:**

"Training" is kind of another misleading term. We should call it Language 101. Now, arrogant species that we humans are, we think that we can "teach" a horse all kinds of neat things to do with his body. Little do we know. What we *can* in fact do, is establish a kind of code, a way to communicate our intentions to our horses, to let them know what we expect them to do with those naturally athletic bodies they've got. The "code" is just a set of cues. What are you doing when you're riding? You're not teaching your horse to trot, he knows how to trot. You're not teaching him how to stop or change leads or turn, he can do those things too. *You are teaching him what you expect*, for example "when I do this with my leg (placing your right lower leg back and adding pressure), I want you to do this with your legs (depart into left lead canter/lope)". Pretty simple. Let's not confuse the issue.

### **...On Introducing New Maneuvers:**

Horses don't read the training books we do, and nobody ever told them that they need to learn everything one baby-step at a time. Every new gait/maneuver/skill can be viewed as a pyramid. Everyone has heard that we need to train in progressive increments, and that's true. The mistake is in defeating our purposes by choosing the wrong building blocks.

Focus on the end result you want. Then "zoom out" to see the big picture on how to get there. If there are three basic pre-requisite skills your horse needs before he can do the new maneuver, be sure all three are solid before trying the new thing. Once those pre-requisites are in place though, tackle the big chunk of the pyramid - do whatever you're trying to do - and perfect it later.

This is a little convoluted, I know, so I'll use an example we've seen a lot of lately - flying lead changes... and it's a little controversial ; I mean no offense to those with other methods. Again, these are *my* thoughts, but they've worked for me and all my students/horses.

The common mistake would be to start with a figure-8 and trot through the centre 6 steps, change... next time trot 4 steps, change... and decreasing so on, expecting that in a few days, the horse will miraculously decide off the top of his head to do a flying change instead. Why would he? - you've just spent 3 days "teaching" him (remember, they're always learning) that when he gets to the centre of a figure-8, he's to trot a few steps and pick up the other lead.

This would be my suggestion. End result desired is *flying lead changes*. Pre-requisites are *taking leads* on cue from walk or halt, and *moving laterally* (leg yield/half pass) at the walk, jog/trot and lope/canter. So assuming you can get your leads every time from the walk or halt, and your horse will move laterally, grab the bull by the horns and ask for the *flying change*. It'll be a little hairy the first time or two, but you got it. Praise your horse. And now you can perfect it.

### **...On Expectations:**

At the end of the day, we expect a lot of our horses. We expect these prey animals to accept that we (as predators) may capture them, confine them, get on their backs, and give them directions. We expect them to let us primp and pamper them, fuss over them and manicure them, dress them funny and haul them all over the countryside in a cave on wheels. Then *of all things*, we believe that when we take them away from their home environment, paint their hooves with polish, braid their manes and tails, and ride them into a noisy arena with a crowd and butterflies in our tummies that make our cues awkward and tense, they should take this all in stride and turn in their best performance to date. *Are we nuts!?*

Since we insist on doing all of these silly things to our horses (and I say this tongue-in-cheek, I do all of the above and more), the least we can do is give them a little leeway. The best you can realistically expect out of your horse in a strange environment such as a horseshow, is about 85% of his best at-home performance. If you get better than that, be ecstatic. But with this rule of thumb in mind, work hard at home, train at a level higher than what you expect to achieve in the showing. And then when you get to the show, relax and ride the horse you're lucky enough to be aboard.

# DINNER WITH THE JUDGE

Date and Time: **February 13, 2011**, starting at **4:00 p.m.**

Location: Okoboji Grill, 2010 SE Delaware, Ste. 260, Ankeny, IA

Payment: \$25 for IaDCTA Members

\$15 for Juniors (age 18 & under)

\$35 for Nonmembers

**Space is limited! Advanced registration and payment is required!**

You can register and pay via the website – simply select the event from the calendar and click the “Register Now” button. We will also register participants and collect payment at the Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet in January, **provided space is still available.**

Eileen Ostlund will evaluate video-taped rides of our very own members! Discussion will include expectations for each level from Intro through Second Level, significant changes in the new tests compared to the 2007 tests, comments on movements and what influences movement scores.

You also get:

- Choice of dinner entrée from several Okoboji Grill options and beverage (soda or iced tea).
- Your own dressage test sheets to take notes during the discussion.
- Your own DVD of the rides for later referral.

Thanks to Eileen for donating her time and her willingness to share her knowledge; thanks to members for offering their rides for critique! We will LEARN a lot, and we will have FUN!

Feel free to contact Vicki Gatter at 515.221.9725 or [vgatter@networkiowa.com](mailto:vgatter@networkiowa.com)!



**2011 IaDCTA Board Absentee Ballot**

To be used only if you **will not attend** the year-end banquet on Sunday, January 16, 2011.

Stay tuned for more information on the Year-End Banquet and Awards Ceremony!

Single membership (one vote); Family membership (2 votes); Junior membership, 18 and under – no vote.

Remember, you must be a 2011 member of IaDCTA to vote for the 2011 board. A membership form is available in this Collection and on the IaDCTA website: [www.iadcta.org](http://www.iadcta.org).

Your absentee Ballots and 2011 membership renewals must be received by January 15, 2011.

Please mail your absentee Ballot to: Vicki Gatter, 513 29<sup>th</sup> St., West Des Moines, IA 50265

<p><b>Officers – (One Year Term Each)</b></p> <p><b>President – vote for one</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Laird Nossuli</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Write-in</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p><b>Vice President – vote for one</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Marcia Young</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Write-in</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p><b>Secretary – vote for one</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Heather McCauley</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Write-in</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p><b>Treasurer – vote for one</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Dawn Sassatelli</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Write-in</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Laird Nossuli		Write-in		Marcia Young		Write-in		Heather McCauley		Write-in		Dawn Sassatelli		Write-in		<p><b>Board of Directors – vote for three (3) 3-year term board members.</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Dawn Sassatelli</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Connie Avis</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>PJ Koehler</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Write-in</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Write-in</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Write-in</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Write-in</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Dawn Sassatelli		Connie Avis		PJ Koehler		Write-in		Write-in		Write-in		Write-in	
Laird Nossuli																															
Write-in																															
Marcia Young																															
Write-in																															
Heather McCauley																															
Write-in																															
Dawn Sassatelli																															
Write-in																															
Dawn Sassatelli																															
Connie Avis																															
PJ Koehler																															
Write-in																															
Write-in																															
Write-in																															
Write-in																															

**Volunteer of the Year  
Vote for One**

**Remember - Volunteer of the Year cannot be a 2010 board member**

Sandra Bommert-Zion	
Dawn Sassatelli	
Stana Hanson	
Taylor Hildreth and Family	

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## **Dawn Sassatelli:**

My life with horses started when I was 13 when I begged my parents to let me get a horse. After much manipulation I was allowed to purchase myself a POA. Although at 13 I was too tall for her immediately, it prevented many injuries since she was so close to the ground. I quickly graduated to an Arabian gelding who became the love of my life. When college forced me to give up my love, I remained horseless for most of my adult life. Fast forward 20 years when destiny brought horses back into my life. I started riding with a friend's wife who happened to ride dressage. Dressage?? I thought . . . What's that? Who cares, I want to ride a horse so I'll try it. Soon I went from borrowing a horse to owning my very own retired hunter/jumper thoroughbred with a lot of nervous energy and trust issues. Chloe and I have used the training scale and principals of dressage to build a very happy relationship. In addition to dressage, we also enjoy trail riding and camping. Although Chloe and I currently do not show, we enjoy clinics, lessons, and I also enjoy volunteering at club events and both schooling and recognized shows.

Outside of riding, my life is filled by my job and my family. I work at Allied Insurance as a Commercial Underwriting Specialist. My family includes my incredibly supportive husband James, who never complains about the time I spend at the barn and my 2 dogs and 3 cats who ALWAYS complain about the time I spend away from them.

I am pleased with the efforts the IaDCTA has made with diversifying show locations and with the educational opportunities being offered. I would like to see the club continue to this route and to add additional clinics/camps and winter club learning and social activities. There is so much more to the club than just winning ribbons. I have learned so much and met so many wonderful friends, and my vision is to find out what it is that the members seek from belonging to the IaDCTA and to find a way to fulfill that need when it is possible.

## **PJ Koehler:**

PJ (aka Pamela Jean) began her love affair with horses at the age of 4 by following a couple of riders down the road on her tricycle and has never looked back. A hunt seat rider at age 6, adding saddle seat and western while attending William Woods, she came to dressage at first as a solution for a new career for an aging Hunter Jumper. PJ quickly discovered the value of classical horsemanship as a developmental tool for all disciplines and shares that value with her students and horses to this day.

Born in Massachusetts she migrated to the Midwest to attend William Woods and has remained in the Midwest since graduating with a BS in Business and a minor in Equestrian Studies. From college PJ went on to train and teach for Robison Stables in Lawrence, Kansas, and later at Jack Gilman Stables in Fulton, Missouri. The economy eventually forced her to seek a management position in manufacturing after which she continued to utilize her business degree, eventually obtaining a Masters in Management from Lindenwood University. A career change brought her to Wells Fargo in Missouri and eventually brought her to Iowa in 2003.

After giving up her status as a "professional horsewomen" for many years due to the time constraints of managing a full time job while attending school, two years ago PJ returned to the professional world here in Iowa. She teaches and trains in the evenings and on weekends and enjoys developing partnerships between horses and riders. PJ has served on the Board of Directors of the IaDCTA for eight years including two years as President and would like to continue her support of dressage in IA with another term. A lot has changed, and the club is moving in a good direction and she would like to be a part of this movement and asks for your vote.

## **Connie Avis:**

Hi. My name is Connie Avis. I've lived in Granger for over 20 years with my husband Jim and two sons. I've been a passenger on horses since I was 4 and have enjoyed trail riding, exercising race horses, jumping 2 foot fences, heeling steers, and running barrels and poles. Since I fell in love with the Friesian breed, it introduced me to the discipline of dressage where I'm currently learning to 'ride my horse'. I've competed at schooling shows but have never shown at a recognized show. I absolutely love the sport of dressage, the courage and horsemanship it takes to ride it well at Training Level. Dressage has a laid out training scale that I've come to embrace and set of rules that have given me confidence and purpose. Over the next 3 years as a board member of IaDCTA, I'd encourage the continuation of educational clinics which I have found very helpful. Also, I would like to see IaDCTA have schooling shows that mirror recognized shows to prepare riders like me for the intense level of competition. As a novice dressage rider, I'd do my best to support our sport in a positive, responsible manner that would enable it to grow in popularity. Thank You.

## MEET THE WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

### Stana Hanson:

Greetings fellow club members,

My name is Stana Hanson and I would like to run for one of the open board member slots.

I have been a past board member and am very excited to see the direction that our club is going in. I have belonged to the club for close to 10 years, and in that time have actively volunteered in many capacities.

I have worked very diligently in my riding and have worked with Marina Paris-Woodhead for going on 8 years, and have recently started riding with Cindy Jackson, another FEI competitor and trainer when available. I have also trained one horse thru third level and am continuing her training on until she says she has had enough!

I believe I have strong knowledge in the basics of dressage, but yet know that every horse and rider is a little different in how they learn. My hope as a board member would be to continue to build upon the great educational and showing experiences that the recent board has offered.

Sincerely,

Stana Hanson

Piaffing Chicken Farm

### Sherie Vermeer:

Owner and Creator of EquiSpa, LLC

I moved here 10 years ago from Omaha to marry my husband Mark. In Omaha I was a successful hairdresser and make-up artist with feature film credits. I served on the Nebraska Hair Fashion Committee and was responsible for peer-to-peer continuing education. I owned an Aveda Salon with 23 employees and became certified in Aromatherapy, which provided the background for what I do today.

When I moved to Des Moines, I knew no one. I was really lonely and homesick, so my husband suggested that I take some riding lessons at Jester Park -- a suggestion he soon regretted. :- ) I started Hunter Jumper lessons and was hooked! A month later, I bought my first horse, and a month after that, I told my husband. :- ) I had grown up loving horses and riding whenever I could but jumping fences was a whole new experience, and one horse soon multiplied into six horses.

In 2003, I started EquiSpa to fill a void of GOOD natural horse care products. I later started studying dressage and joined IaDCTA and the Iowa Horse Council and have come to love the people I have met through these organizations. I really appreciate the friendliness extended to me and the community support for my business.

Now I would like to take it to the next level and ask for your write-in vote for one of the openings on the board. Like most of you, I have a passion for showing. I would like to help build our schooling show program and also build support for our talented young riders.

Thank you and Happy New Year!



## IADCTA 2011 MEMBERSHIP & HORSE/RIDER NOMINATION APPLICATION

Membership Year Runs December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2011

Join, Renew or Donate Online at [www.iadcta.org](http://www.iadcta.org).

The Iowa Dressage & Combined Training Association (IADCTA) is a USDF Group Member Organization (GMO). By joining IADCTA, you automatically become a USDF Group Member. However, to become a USDF Participating Member, you must apply directly to the USDF.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

All Adult, Junior and Family Members of IADCTA will receive the IADCTA Collection and the USDF Connection magazine. In addition, Adult, Junior and Family members are eligible for IADCTA year-end awards and will automatically become Individual Group Members of USDF.

Please choose your membership type below:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Adult Membership – \$40** - Includes benefits listed above and gives the member ONE vote for IADCTA elections.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Family Membership - \$45 (plus an additional \$8 for each additional member)** - Includes the benefits listed above (however, only one copy of both the Collection and USDF Connection will be mailed (to the primary USDF member). Family membership allocates 2 votes to the group. The primary member will be the person listed at the top of this form. Please list additional family members below at an additional cost of \$8 per member:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Junior Membership (21 years & under) - \$25** – Includes benefits listed above, but does not include an IADCTA vote. If applying as a junior member, please provide your age \_\_\_\_\_ and date of birth \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Newsletter Only - \$25** – A "Newsletter Only" member receives the IADCTA Collection, but does not become a USDF member, is not eligible for year-end awards and cannot vote.

Please indicate how you would like to receive the Collection newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_ by Email \_\_\_\_\_ On the website \_\_\_\_\_ by Mail

➤ **YEAR-END AWARD NOMINATIONS - \$5.00** (per horse/rider combination) makes each combination eligible for IADCTA Championships, Horse of the Year Awards & Qualified Rider Awards.

#1 Rider: _____	Horse Name/Breed: _____	Blanket Size: _____
#2 Rider: _____	Horse Name/Breed: _____	Blanket Size: _____
#3 Rider: _____	Horse Name/Breed: _____	Blanket Size: _____
#4 Rider: _____	Horse Name/Breed: _____	Blanket Size: _____

### MAKING A DONATION TO IADCTA:

**IADCTA Betsy Coester Memorial Grant Fund for Education** – Fund supports grants to individual members for tuition for educational events. If desired, donation can be made as a special gift or memorial.

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**IADCTA General Fund** – Donations used to further IADCTA's commitment to educating its members.

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

➤➤ **TOTAL ENCLOSED** (For Membership, Nominations & Donations): \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ <<

**PLEASE NOTE:** The USDF increased its GMO fees for 2011 by \$3 for an individual membership and \$2 for each additional member of a family membership. IADCTA will NOT be passing this increase on to our members in 2011.

Mail this form with check, payable to "IADCTA" to: Trudy Tatum, 16631 563rd Avenue, Ames, IA. 50010  
IADCTA is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

# CHANGE OF HAND

## FOR SALE:



Fabulous trail partner. Ride daily or yearly and he's the same enjoyable horse. \$1,500. Pictures/video/more: [www.camstock.net/sale.html](http://www.camstock.net/sale.html). Camie Stockhausen. 515.231.9875

## FOR SALE:



StopekStables.com has Trakehners for sale as well as exceptional sport ponies. Standing approved Trakehner stallion "Prelude By Mozart" and Thoroughbred stallion "Bar". 515-988-2700  
Karen@StopekStables.com

## FOR SALE:



Dressage saddle--Bates Innova with extended blocks, CAIR panels, and adjustable tree; seat 17-1/2"--18". Asking \$2000. Sheila Schmidt in Grinnell, 641-236-1049.

## FOR SALE:



Ansur treeless Carlton Dressage saddle - 18" (large) seat with extra large and large knee blocks; fits any horse while supporting the rider. This saddle is made of top quality leather with no marks. It comes with the cover and only used a few times. \$2000 515-274-3430

## FOR SALE:



**Schleese WAVE** for sale. 2003, 18.5" seat, currently set to wide but has a fully adjustable Adaptree system, adjustable V-Webbing billet system, adjustable thigh blocks. Soft black leather in excellent condition. Super saddle that no longer fits my horse and me. \$1850 (new they are \$5995). 274-3430

## FOR SALE:



17" Courbette Derby jump saddle and 16.5" Crosby Prix de Nations close contact saddle. Both saddles in great condition. Asking \$450 for the Crosby and \$375 for the Courbette. Contact: Heather McCauley, 515-710-0685 or [heather.mccauley@elversonlaw.com](mailto:heather.mccauley@elversonlaw.com).

## FOR SALE:

2004 Sundowner 3 horse slant/tack room/11 foot living quarters.

3-horse slant w/tack room—Featherlite. Call Deb Pulver: 515-240-5843

# IN BRIEF

**2011 Dressage Tests Released** — Below are two links to the new 2011 tests. When you are using the first link, you must change the name of the test at the end to which test you are interested in. The second link is a website that has them listed.

<http://www.usef.org/documents/disciplines/dressage/tests/2011trainingLevelTest1.pdf>

[http://www.woodsdressage.com/2011\\_USEF\\_Tests.html](http://www.woodsdressage.com/2011_USEF_Tests.html)


***IaDCTA and The Collection do not accept responsibility for statements or claims made by advertising placed in this publication. Signed articles represent the opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the publication or IaDCTA.***

# MARKETPLACE

HIGH POINT EQUESTRIAN ENTERPRISES LLC.  
*Catering to the Serious Equestrian*



*A Premier Full Service Training Facility*  
WWW.HIGHPOINTEQUESTRIAN.COM  
515-729-7492



## Apples 'n Oats

*An informative magazine created especially for people who care for & about horses.*

Carol Eilers, editor & publisher      Phone: 319-365-7314  
5070 Northridge Pt. SE      Email: Aplznoats@aol.com  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403      Web: www.applesnoats.com

## Sara Messner Dressage

Specializing in Dressage Instruction  
Training and Boarding

2276 Nectar Ave.  
Woodward, IA 50276  
(515)520-0428

*Preston's Creek Equestrian Center on Facebook*



IaDCTA - *The Collection*  
c/o Heather McCauley  
2180 NE 104th St.  
Mitchellville, IA 50169

***IaDCTA Mission Statement:***

To encourage & support interest  
in dressage & combined training  
by providing:

- Educational Opportunities
- Competitions
- Information
- Acting as a liaison with  
USDF and USEA
- Marketing of all IaDCTA  
activities throughout the  
state and region.