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President's Message Susan Price

"You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes you just might find, you get what you need"

The Rolling Stones

It is funny how you can make plans and then life will just give you the finger and completely change every single thing you had on your agenda. I had huge plans for this year. It was going to *MY YEAR!!!* I was going to get started riding my fantastically gifted young horse, Sarah. I was going to use the grant money I was awarded from The Dressage Foundation's Gifted Fund and go spend a week immersing myself in riding with Jim Koford. I was going to make my show debut with said fantastically gifted young horse and everything was going to be sunshine and roses. In short, I had planned on this being a spectacular year full of accomplishments in my riding. Umm, yeah. None of those things happened.

As dressage riders, most of us dream of getting an amazing horse with breathtaking gaits. That's what I wanted too. And for a brief moment I got what wanted. Or at least what I thought I wanted. What most people don't realize until you have one of these gifted horses is that a talented horse requires an equally talented rider. I freely admit that I am not a talented rider. At best, on a good day, I am a passable rider who like most other AA riders still struggles with position, sitting trot, keeping quiet hands, etc.

I had what I wanted. And after months of finishing almost every ride in tears, constant angst over whether to sell her or keep tormenting myself, one broken elbow, a lot of reflection and soul searching on what was important to me and the support and advice from trainers and patient friends that had my best interest at heart I (reluctantly) came to the conclusion that although this is what I thought I wanted, it was not what I needed.

Yes, sometimes life will definitely give you the finger, but sometimes it will throw you a bone. Through pure serendipity, I have found my next dressage partner and my beautiful, talented Sarah will go on to an owner with the talent she deserves and who is able to bring her to her full potential.
(continued on page 2)



Susan and Cowboy

President's message (cont'd from page 1)

My new horse, Reuben is an adorable 16H, quiet 5 year old (with an old soul), dappled buckskin Friesian/Quarter Horse cross that is already solid at 2nd level and schooling 3rd. He is kind and willing and safe and fun. I have a big goofy smile on my face when I ride him. In short, I got what I need and I couldn't be happier about it. ☺



Susan and Reuben get acquainted

Now, onto club stuff: CDCTS has had a quiet few months but we are gearing up again for our next batch of events. We have our Fall Schooling Show scheduled for October 3 at Cedar Valley Farm in Seymour. We always have fun at our shows at this beautiful facility so we are excited to be holding an event at this farm again. We also have the Hunter Pace coming up in October. This event gets bigger and bigger every year because people have realized it is just a fun way to spend the day with your horse and your friends, out of the arena. Official date and venue will be confirmed soon but we have tentatively scheduled it for SUNDAY, October 18. Details will be announced as soon as they have been confirmed.

CDCTS MEETING MINUTES Date: 08/10/2015

Members/Guests in Attendance: Susan Price, Carolyn Ordal, Kathy Ridenour, Melissa McKenzie, Gwen Hilla, Christina Cardenas, Becky Pickens, Jill Streatin, Carol Mitchell, Ann and Jeff Titus, Dave McAdoo, Lisha Marshall, Jean and Mike Sullivan, Carol and Charlie Grau.

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 PM

Motion made and seconded to accept previous month's meeting minutes? Yes.

Motion made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report as read? Yes

Old Business:

- Fall Schooling Show
 - Oct 3rd at Cedar Valley in Seymour, Judge – Danielle Perry
 - Volunteers needed – House judge, Parking, Scribe, Jump Judge, Course design and set-up, Ring steward, Jump crew, Runners
 - We will need to borrow jumps from someone
 - Concessions – Janet to talk to Lisa about this
- Cross Country Clinic – Clinic organizers – Erika Adams, Katherine McDonough, Kate Wooten
 - Sinead Halpin dates – Nov 7th and 8th
- Holly Hudspeth Clinic – Shaelynn Baggett – postponed until next year
- JJ Tate clinic – Teresa working on dates for fall
- Hunter Pace – (Holly R., Kelly Vaughn, Carolyn Ordal organizing). Tentative venue will be Swan Pond, Oct 18th 2015. Holly to contact Sarah McCoin about venue. It was suggested that we have two divisions – First Flight and Hill toppers/ trail riders. We would award places for 1-6 in each division. Additional award for best junior rider in each division.

- Jeremy Steinberg Clinic (Melissa McKenzie) – To schedule dates when his calendar opens up for 2016.
- On the levels DVDs – these DVDs have arrived and are at Melissa Mckenzie's farm.
- Banquet –contract is completed and the date is Jan 23, 2016. Jean Sullivan handed out questionnaire to obtain feedback. Jean suggested the club look at purchasing a projector. Jennifer Bolen generously offered to donate one to the club that she has but is not using.
- Master Dressage Clinic with Peter Dove – Jennifer Bolen not present, tabled

New Business:

- Nominating Committee – Dave agreed to head this up again this year

Motion to adjourn at: 8:00 PM

Minutes Taken By: Julie Noe CDCTS Secretary

CDCTS CLASSIFIED CORNER

For Sale: TULLYMOR'S TIGGER. Tigger is a quiet, sensible, attractive 13.1 registered purebred Connemara gelding; born 5/1/11. He is a beautiful bay with correct conformation, sound body and limbs, great feet. He is easy to handle and has excellent ground manners (can catch in a big field, easy to lead, tie/cross-tie, load and haul, is good for the farrier, happy in the barn or turned out, etc.). He will cross a creek and ponies very nicely all around the farm, so should be an easy boy to take out on trails. He has shown us his scope over a 4 fence (but thankfully has not made a habit of it). He is reliable enough to become a safe driving pony or even a children's foxhunter or pony club mount, with appropriate training. He has been backed, lunges nicely and is super willing. He is ready for the next level; start him your way. Located in Athens, TN. Contact Vanessa (phone) 423-744-9071 or by email: connemaras9@gmail.com

Free! 21 year-old Percheron mare, free to a good home, great pasture buddy. She is rideable but has slight navicular. She is an easy keeper, on grass and in pasture with run-in, and is very lovable and easy to work with. She does drive, as well. Contact Kathy Ridenour 423-912-1477.

Trailers for Sale: Tobruk Trailers – Merhow and Cherokee aluminum trailers. Custom living quarters for large horses. Hitches and repairs. Call 865-674-7041 or email tobrukfarm@charter.net

Dressage Saddle for Sale. County Connection 18inch W dressage saddle \$2250. Bought new in 2008. Excellent condition, new billets last August and flocked at that time as well. Serviced by Shirley Ferguson, a County Rep. Stored inside house. Saddle can be tried on your horse, within reason. It is a great saddle for helping the rider sit the trot and maintain position. Very comfortable, soft and supple leather. Contact Lauren Irwin 423-304-4143.

Reach the audience you want through an ad in our newsletter

AD Size	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
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Quarter Page (3.5"wide X 5" high)	\$2 per month	\$5 per month
Business Card (3.5"wide X 2" high)	FREE	\$2 per month
Classified Ad	FREE	\$1 for each 25 words

Please send ads and requests to Carol Mitchell. Call 865-288-7093 or email to ericncarol.belcher@gmail.com

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www.walnutgrovestables.com

The CROSSING

Published monthly by the CDCTS
Please submit articles for your newsletter!

Deadline for submission of articles to ***The Crossing*** is the 18th of
each month.

Please submit your article by email to:
ericncarol.belcher@gmail.com

The Accidental (almost) Bronze

Melissa McKenzie's road to achieving USDF's Bronze level started casually and with no actual firm plan in place with timelines or other stressors. A while back, Melissa helped Gwen Hilla get started in dressage; Gwen had been training on her own and wanted to take her mare, Ebony, to the Keuring. Melissa and Gwen met again at a schooling show at the end of 2013. Gwen brought Ebony to Melissa for two months of training. This was the start of a long—term relationship for horse owner, horse and trainer. Ebony did well and qualified for the regionals in 2013 and this was the start of showing for Melissa. "I think my show record has an entry from 2009 and then nothing till 2013," she laughed. "Showing just wasn't on my radar at the time."



This started to change in the fall of 2014 when she loaded two of her horses under training and went to work with JJ Tate at her farm in Maryland. JJ encouraged her to 'go for it' and work for her Bronze. Prior to her work with JJ, Melissa had gotten her First Level scores on Ebony in 2013. During this time, Mary Sivley's horse Pilgrim was in training with Melissa as well. He was doing his First Level work competently but Mary and Melissa decided to show him at Second Level at Kentucky Horse Park's Pony Cup in September 2014. Melissa got both her scores for Second Level there on Pilgrim. Ebony was achieving success too, having made the regional championship and finishing in ninth place overall.

(Left: Melissa and Ebony)

While Melissa always wanted to get to the Bronze on horses that she had personally trained, Pilgrim needed additional training in his changes before he would be able to compete at Third Level. With JJ's help and her knowledge of available lease horses, Melissa seized the opportunity to lease Philosopher (AKA Phil) from Elizabeth Schneider of King George, VA. Phil and Melissa clicked and she leased him from mid-November through June 2015. As an older horse, Phil needed to be ridden carefully and compassionately but he had great movement once he was warmed up. Melissa signed up for Third Level Tests I and III at the June rated show in Chattahoochee Hills GA. She needed to achieve 60% or better with two different judges; however she had the same judge for both tests on Saturday. With the strange surroundings and the flapping flags, Phil was nervous at first but settled down for his second test.

On Sunday, both tests had a different judge but the test wasn't without its challenges. Crossing the diagonal for the second time in the extended trot, all was going well until someone in the nearby concession stand dropped a pot with a huge clatter and Phil broke into a canter. Melissa quickly got him back together. Alas, at the canter half-pass, Phil got struck in the head by a huge June bug, resulting in a giant head toss.

(Left: Melissa and Pilgrim medium trot)



Given these issues, Melissa really didn't expect to get a good score so she just moseyed over to the board with the posted results and misread the line beside her name. She thought she got a score of 59.8. Whoops! She realized she had the wrong line, found her actual score and realized that she and Phil had won the class. Great news!

Melissa didn't want to talk to anyone about the Bronze in case she had missed a USDF requirement somehow and somewhere. She didn't want to jinx her chances but it turned out that she did get the Bronze!



Melissa and Ebony

She needed to return Phil to his home and discussed taking him to Dressage at Lexington VA with JJ Tate and his owner, as it was on the way back. JJ supported her plan and Melissa and Phil entered Fourth Level Test I. This was her first time showing at this level and she hadn't practiced the test. It was raining on Friday which assisted Phil in completing unintended lead changes. The ride on Saturday was indoors and was marred by a "piloting error". The ride on Sunday felt the best and was good. It was their last ride together which made the day bitter-sweet. Melissa felt they worked so well together that this ride was special. Despite that "pilot error" affecting the overall score, Melissa felt the whole weekend was worth it. It was a privilege to ride and to improve.



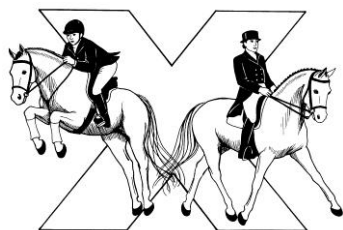
Melissa and Phil

Melissa felt it was an incredible privilege to have those horses to ride, train and compete with. The horses' owners were incredibly supportive of her work. She is very proud that she did all the training for her first two horses that helped get her Bronze scores and that she was able to improve Phil's medium trot on their way to the final Bronze score. She is so thankful that JJ pushed her to realize her dreams. Her most rewarding experience was the journey, giving the horses good foundations which led naturally to the process of achieving the Bronze. Good training and solid foundation work made it so rewarding to progress.

"I want to thank the owners and their horses for their generosity and their confidence in me as a rider and trainer. They are Gwen and Jamie Hilla, owners of *Utterly Ebony von Grace (Ebony)*, Mary Sivley, owner of *Duster's Legacy (Pilgrim)* and Elizabeth Schneider, owner of *Philosopher (Phil)*. They made this possible. Thank you, thank you!"

In the long term, Melissa wants to continue to work on the USDF medals without the pressure of an artificial timeline. JJ will continue to mentor her and will give her guidance. At some time, Melissa would love to ride the Grand Prix and to continue showing, as a test of the skills she and the horses achieve, not as the goal. For her, good training is the goal and training to the horse's potential while enjoying the journey is the reward.

Photos of Ebony and Pilgrim courtesy of Suzanne Fischer and photo of Phil courtesy of "Pics of You".



*Crossroads Dressage and
Combined Training Society*
2016 Membership Form



GROUP
MEMBER
ORGANIZATION

First Name: _____ Middle
Initial _____

Last Name: _____ USDF

Street
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip
Code: _____

Primary Phone: (_____) _____ Secondary Phone:
(_____) _____

Email
Address: _____ Birthdate: _____

(Requested by USDF)

I would like to join Crossroads Dressage and Combined Training Society for the 2016 Membership Year (December 1, 2015 – November 30, 2016). Enclosed is a check for the following membership category:

- ☐ **\$23** Charter Membership (*Founding Members whose membership has not lapsed since the formation of the club*)
- ☐ **\$48** Adult Membership (Over 21 years old as of January 1, 2016)
- ☐ **\$28** Junior/Young Rider Membership (21 years old or younger as of January 1, 2016)
- ☐ *Family Membership – (\$48 Primary Membership + \$13 per each Additional Family Member)
- Total family dues submitted with application: \$ _____

List Additional Family Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>DOB</u>
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I would be willing to volunteer in the following areas (circle all that apply):

HORSE SHOWS: ☐ Scribe ☐ Scorer ☐ Runner ☐ Ring Steward ☐ Concessions ☐ Setup/Tear down
☐ Hospitality

OTHER: ☐ Phone Contacts ☐ Committees ☐ Board Member ☐ Write for Newsletter ☐ Publish
Newsletter

☐ Web Site ☐ Sell Advertising

☐ Other: _____

Please make your check payable to CDCTS, and return by **December 1, 2015** to:

Julie Noe, CDCTS Secretary

Date

Received: _____

1031 Martin Mill Pk

Check

Rockford, TN 37853

Amount _____

This organization is a USDF GMO and its members are automatically USDF Group Members

\$20 of your membership fee goes directly to USDF for your Group Membership

Membership Forms submitted by E-mail will be held until payment is received.

Yes, that's right...it's getting to be that time of year when you renew your membership. The membership year runs from 1 December-30 November so this year is almost up. Help Julie out by getting your membership dues in to her at the address above before 1 December.

And now, important information from Jane Fucinaro of "The Dressage Foundation": We love awarding Grants from TDF, but we HATE having to turn People down because of late or incomplete applications.

CDCTS has included "The Dressage Foundation's" guidance to filling out their forms in the following page. Please take the time to read it and follow its instruction if you plan to apply for a grant this year.

Also note that the due date for the Carol Lavall Gifted Memorial Scholarship is 15 September 2015. Get your paperwork in to TDF before that date if you plant to apply for the grant.



Making Your Application The Best It Can Be:

Tips from
The Dressage Foundation's
Selection Committee
Members and Staff

Each year, The Dressage Foundation receives hundreds of grant applications. It is always difficult for our Selection Committees to choose the best candidates for each funding opportunity. How can you stand out from the rest?

We've put together some guidelines and tips for you to consider, in order to help you make your application be as competitive as possible. While we can't guarantee that any one individual will receive financial assistance, since the final decision is always in the hands of our independent Selection Committees, we can offer some suggestions.

1. Begin the process early. With work, school, riding, and family obligations, finding the time to devote to the application process can be difficult. If you feel rushed, you will skim over important details in the application. Incomplete or incorrect applications are not sent to the Selection Committee for review, so be sure to give yourself enough time to gather all required parts of the application and double (or triple!) check to make sure that everything is included before you submit your application.

Allow enough time for your application to reach our office. If the deadline is September 15th, that means that your application MUST reach our office on or before September 15th. There are no exceptions to this rule. The earlier you start the process, the more relaxed you will be, the more your application will follow the format required, provide all necessary information, and allow you time to call with any questions.

2. Read all information before beginning the application process. Remember to do this every year as requirements may change from year to year. If the instructions say to submit your application online, do so. If the instructions say to mail a certain number of copies to our office, then proceed in that way.

3. Consider the funding opportunities. What are your goals? How do your goals fit with the grant or scholarship that interests you? Sometimes it is easy to "stretch" the interpretation of a program or fund's stated purpose to match what you want to do. Be aware that other applicants will take a more literal approach and those that most closely match the stated purpose of the fund will score better with the Selection Committee.

Do you meet the criteria as stated by The Dressage Foundation? What is the amount of the financial assistance available from the Foundation? Is your application appropriate?

Also consider what other assistance is available to you. Does your GMO or dressage club offer scholarships?

4. Review your application. Proofread for grammar and typos, as these can make even the best application look as if it was thrown together at the last minute. If possible, have someone else read through your application. Consider how it will look to someone on the Selection Committee. If you were on the Committee, how would you score the application? Take a close look at the requirements. Do you meet or exceed all the requirements? Do you "somewhat" meet the requirements? Are there areas where you do not meet the requirements? If so, you may want to work on those areas and wait a year to apply for the grant or scholarship.

5. Closely review your budget. Do the numbers add up correctly? Have you included all expenses and income? Double-check your math and explain any areas that may be unclear to the Selection Committee.

6. Keep a copy for yourself. Before submitting your application, be sure to print or otherwise keep a copy for your records. You will not receive your application back after the selection process.

Now that you've made sure that your application will be a contender, how do you make it rise to the top?

Our Selection Committee members are busy people. They don't have time to read a book about each applicant, so keep your application simple and relevant. Answer the questions completely, but keep the information pertinent to the question (don't go off on a tangent, telling a long story that wanders away from the point of the question).

Make sure the information clearly and concisely illustrates WHY you are the best candidate for this grant or scholarship.

Feel free to call the TDF office at 402-434-8585 if you have questions, we are here to help!

Good luck!



THE DRESSAGE FOUNDATION: support available for Adult Amateurs

CAROL LAVELL GIFTED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This Scholarship enables **Adult Amateurs** to set aside quality-time, in concentrated training, away from the daily pressures of job and family, with their horse. The recipients will be able to spend a week or more just bonding with their horse; they will have enough time to feed them, graze them, give them a spa bath, or just stand around in the stall with them!

Past recipients have used this scholarship to spend a solid week away from home at a trainer's facility, riding schoolmasters, taking lunge lessons and auditing other lessons throughout the day.

Up to nine \$1,000 scholarships are available each year (one in each USDF Region), plus two additional \$1,000 wild card scholarships (which can be awarded in any Region).

The deadline for the Carol Lavell Gifted Memorial Fund Scholarship is **September 15th**, and we highly recommend getting a head start on this application!

HELDENBERG TRAINING CENTER FUND

The Heldenberg Training Center Fund was established by Ralph and Freddie Dreitzler and their family, who worked with Andreas Hausberger, Chief Rider at the Spanish Riding School and Director of the Training Center in Heldenberg, to establish this opportunity for North American, **non-professional riders** to participate in educational sessions at the Heldenberg Center.

Grant recipients may attend a variety of educational sessions at the SRS Training Center in Heldenberg, including 3 or 5 day theory sessions, learning about classic dressage training at the school. Lunge lessons may be arranged privately, too!

The grant covers the costs for theory seminars, transportation, lodging and food and is available to Adult Amateurs or Young Riders.

Your completed application packet must be received by The Dressage Foundation by **June 1st** to be considered for a grant.



Are you ready to begin applying?

Applications and guidelines are available on TDF's website, www.dressagefoundation.org, or if you have questions, email us at info@dressagefoundation.org or give us a call, (402) 434-8585. We are happy to help you with your dressage education!

Since 1989, donors to The Dressage Foundation have generously provided funds to create a better dressage community...for you!
TDF is your source for support.

TDF's Two-Tempi Challenge



WHAT IS TDF'S TWO-TEMPI CHALLENGE?

Riders who have horses capable of doing two-tempi changes are invited to participate in a Regional and National competition to raise funds for The Dressage Foundation (TDF).

Each rider works with an individual, GMO, stable, or any group of dressage friends that is willing to make a pledge to TDF for each two-tempi change.

All donations are used to support TDF's programs, grants, and scholarships.

A Two-Tempi Challenge can be held at a show, during a clinic, or even at your local barn with your friends. It is a fun way to bring your equestrian friends together to support the dressage community.

RIDERS

The horse and rider teams may use the best of three efforts. Start the count with "one" on the first flying change and count to the last two-tempi. If a change is not clean, it still counts as a two-tempi. As soon as the horse loses count (by doing a one-tempi, a three-tempi, or no change), the effort is over. A horse and rider combination can participate monthly in the Two-Tempi Challenge.

SUPPORTERS

Any individual or group may pledge to support the horse and rider team. The group or individual may pledge any dollar amount per change that the rider successfully completes (see above).

THE WINNERS

At the end of each calendar year, TDF will announce National and Regional Two-Tempi Challenge Champions and Reserve Champions, based on the number of completed consecutive two-tempis performed.

There will also be awards for the top two groups that raise the most donations for TDF.

SUBMITTING YOUR VIDEO

Your Two-Tempi Challenge must be videoed and sent via YouTube, email, or DVD to TDF (using a cell phone to video is acceptable). A link or file can be emailed to info@dressagefoundation.org, uploaded on our website, or mailed to TDF's office. You will receive confirmation that TDF has received the video and pledged donations.

TDF's Two-Tempi Challenge will be open to interested riders and donors until December 31, 2015.

QUESTIONS?

For more details about TDF's Two-Tempi Challenge, please contact us at:

(402) 434-8585

info@dressagefoundation.org

www.dressagefoundation.org/two-tempi-challenge

The Dressage Foundation
1314 'O' Street, Suite 305
Lincoln, NE 68508



**Sinead Halpin Clinic
Sponsored by CDCTS**

November 7th - 8th

**Yellow Wood Farm
4562 Kingston Hwy
Lenoir City, TN 37771**

Opening Date: 9/15/15 Closing Date 11/3/15

Saturday 7 November: Gridwork/Gymnastics

Sunday 8 November: Show Jumping Coursework

Levels: starter, beginner novice, novice, training, prelim, and higher if needed with about 4 riders per group.

Stabling: STABLING IS EXTREMELY LIMITED! If you can haul in each day, please try to do so. Contact Katherine McDonough if you need stabling at cdcts.clinics@gmail.com Limited stabling is available at Yellow Wood for \$30/night. When that fills, we have other options on a case-by-case basis.

Camping: Primitive camping for \$10/night is available at Yellow Wood. The barn has a shower, refrigerator, and a microwave, but no hook-ups.

Two-Day Clinic Cost: \$200 for CDCTS members / \$250 for non-members (This includes the two-day ring fee). Make checks payable to CDCTS

Auditing: Free for CDCTS members; \$10/day for non-members

Late Fee: Entries received after 11/3/15 will incur a \$30 late fee (if space is available)

When you send your entry, please be sure to include your completed entry form, payment in full, Coggins, and a signed release.

****Entry fee is non-refundable unless your place can be filled from the waiting list****

The clinic will run rain or shine since Yellow Wood has a lovely covered arena with quality footing!

If you have any questions you can email Katherine at cdcts.clinics@gmail.com or 865-789-1332

Sinead Halpin Clinic Entry Form

Name: _____ Horse: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

CDCTS Member (circle one): Yes No

Level Currently Showing _____

Level Currently Schooling _____

Preferred clinic level* (circle one): ST BN N T P Above

*we will do our best to accommodate your preference, but we may have to move things around depending upon the entries.

Clinic Cost – Checks payable to CDCTS

Clinic Fee (CDCTS Member)..... \$ _____

(CDCTS Non-Member)..... \$ _____

Late Fee (after 11/3/15 if applicable)..... \$ _____

TOTAL..... \$ _____

Please mail check along with entry, Coggins, and release to:

Sinead Halpin Clinic
C/O Sue Adams
11316 Birch Springs Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37932

Stabling Cost – Checks payable to RLT Upon Arrival

Stabling at Yellow Wood

Saturday night..... \$ _____

Friday and Saturday night..... \$ _____

Primitive Camping at Yellow Wood

Saturday night..... \$ _____

Friday and Saturday nights..... \$ _____

TOTAL..... \$ _____

Sinead Halpin Clinic November 7-8 2015
Clinic Release Form

I _____ understand the inherent risks involved in equestrian sports and do hereby release Crossroads Dressage and Combined Training Society (CDCTS), Yellow Wood Farm, and Road Less Traveled, LLC from any liability. I further agree that no legal action shall be instituted by me or on my behalf against the Provider herein, and that if any such legal action is instituted, this agreement may be pleaded as a complete bar to such action, and I will indemnify Provider for all costs of such legal action, including attorney's fees.

Signed _____

By Parent if rider is under 18 _____

Printed _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Date _____

WARNING: UNDER TENNESSEE LAW, AN EQUINE PROFESSIONAL IS NOT LIABLE FOR ANY INJURY TO OR THE DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT IN EQUINE ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISK OF EQUINE ACTIVITIES, PURSUANT TO TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED TITLE 44, CHAPTER 20, SECTION 1.

2015 Events

Next CDCTS meeting will be held on **September 8, 2015** at the **Puleo's Grill**, 260 N. Peters Road, Knoxville 37923. The Meeting will start at **7:00 pm** sharp so please come earlier to order your meal and to socialize. The restaurant's website is <http://puleosgrille.com/our-locations/puleos-cedar-bluff>. Please mark your calendar and plan to join your fellow members.

Cathy Fox Clinics. Merry Hour farm holds monthly lessons with Cathy Fox of Lexington KY. Should you wish to bring your horse to train with Cathy, please contact Carol Grau at 865-984-2532 for available ride times. Cathy will be at Merry Hour Farm during the following weekends: **September 12-13, October 17-18, November 14-15 and December 5-6.** To learn more about Cathy Fox, please visit her website www.pineknollfarm.com. For more information on Merry Hour Farm, please visit their website at www.merryhourfarm.com

Fall Schooling Show. To be held on **October 3, 2015** at Cedar Valley Farm, Seymour Tn. Judge will be Danielle Perry.

Hunter Pace. To be held Sunday **October 18 2015** at Swan Pond Kinston TN

Sinead Halpin Clinic. Sponsored by CDCTS and held at Yellow Wood Farm, 4562 Kingston Hwy, Lenoir City TN 37771 on **November 7-8 2015**. Registration opens September 15, 2015.

Annual CDCTS Banquet. To be held **January 23, 2016**.

THE CROSSING



CDCTS is a USDF Group Member Organization that caters to dressage and combined training (eventing) riders and enthusiasts in the Knoxville area and throughout East Tennessee. CDCTS is also an affiliate member of USEA to better serve our eventing members.

By joining CDCTS, you will be on the fast track to learning about shows, clinics and other great educational opportunities in our area. You will get to meet other like-minded, horse-loving people, and you will become part of a group that is continually working to promote dressage and eventing in your area.

In addition, by joining CDCTS, you automatically become a Group Member of USDF and an Affiliate Member of USEA, which provides you with many additional benefits in the dressage and eventing arena.

Visit us on the web for more information and downloadable content at www.CDCTS.ORG

Contact our webmaster, Rebecca Brown at rbrown80@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CDCTS

From the Editor's Desk

If you see Melissa McKenzie in your travels, be sure to congratulate her on achieving her USDF Bronze. It's always great when one of our members does well.

In case you were wondering where it was or if you got dropped off the email distribution list, we didn't have an August edition of the CDCTS newsletter, as we were going through a bit of a slow news month. But we're *baaack* now!

Gee, another bit of horse news discovered in the *News Sentinel* made me go "*What the What?!*" yet again! Yes indeed...the Tennessee Walker horse industry got another mention in the newspaper on Wednesday August 26, 2015. On page 20A, the article is titled *Humane Society: Videos show walking horse abuse*. Once again illegal soring of these horses has been highlighted by the Humane Society of the United States; this time the undercover operation at ThorSport Farm in Murfreesboro TN gathered videos, pictures and samples of substances applied to horses' legs. Of those

substances, 63 were identified as caustic chemicals prohibited by law, according to Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO of the Humane Society. Apparently this isn't the first time ThorSport Farm's trainers have been cited; in the past, three of their trainers have been cited with illegally soring horses.

News Sentinel goes on to report that "Video taken during the operation, Dane [Keith Dane is the vice president of Equine Protection for the Humane Society] said, shows horses "groaning and moaning with pain" as caustic chemicals secured on horses' legs with tight binds were "left on overnight to cook into the horse's flesh."

News Sentinel included a response from the stable owner: "In an emailed statement to the Associated Press, stable owner Duke Thorson said, "ThorSport Farm has a well-earned reputation for operating ethically and legally, and we emphatically reject the HSUS's charges of soring."

Sigh. This story came out the day before the start of the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. The Celebration is scheduled to run through September 5 in Shelbyville TN. I continue to hope this sport is able to move past these sordid actions. I continue to hope that the following quote serves as a reminder to all of us who love and respect our horses that how we treat them matters and is a reflection of our own ethical perspective. *We judge ourselves by our best intentions and most noble acts but we will be judged by our last worst act.* Michael Josephson.