



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

April 2005

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CENTERLINE

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Centerline is the official newsletter of the Connecticut Dressage Association and is published about 10 times annually. It is distributed to all members. CDA welcomes story ideas, informative articles and commentary. Please submit all contributions to: John Gordon, 24 Darren Court Waterbury, CT 06708

Email -
Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org
Subject: Centerline

- CDA Website -
www.ctdressageassoc.org

CDA is a USDF member, and the GMO's members are automatically USDF Group Members.

President's Message

The snow is melting and soon the mud season will come and go, taking winter's hairy coats with it. We all have much to look forward to, whether we are showing, attending clinics or heading for the trails. If you are planning to participate in schooling shows this season, I want to remind you that you may count scores from **any** schooling show listed in CDA's Omnibus toward our club's annual awards. To be eligible, you must ride in one **CDA-sponsored show**. Our schooling shows are located over a wide area of the state so you can more easily meet this criterion.

There is an important change in the CDA schooling show schedule as listed in your March Centerline. The first show is at Once Again Farm on Sunday, **May 1, not May 8**. There is CDA Schooling Show on Saturday, May 7 at Coventry Equestrian Center, which is correctly listed.

After Debra Reinhardt's article on consolidating paperwork for recognized shows, I went to the USDF website to download my required information. To my dismay, I found it a little harder than expected. Debra and I contacted USDF about an error in the program, which has now been corrected. Following Deb's directions, I went to usdf.org, found the "Before the Show" heading, and clicked on "Membership Verification." That brought up a list which included "Master Verification." I printed out my information about 20 seconds after that. This will make all the show secretaries very happy. I encourage all of you to try it.

Speaking of recognized shows....CDA will be holding our annual recognized show on June 4-5 at Ox Ridge. Banish your memories of sodden stalls! This year all the stabling will be indoors!!! Thank you, Ox Ridge and Centerline Events. I'd like to encourage any of you with a product or service that might be of interest to competitors to think of placing an ad in this year's show program, or even of being a sponsor for the show. You may also know of someone besides yourself who would like to take advantage of the exposure. Once expenses are paid, the proceeds subsidize educational events for members and we also make a generous donation to charity. This makes ads and sponsorships very welcome.

If anyone of you has enthusiasm for marketing, CDA needs someone to work with Centerline Events, our recognized show managers, to obtain support for our annual show. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me

Leslie Weiss

2005 Volunteer Awards Program

Earn points for every hour you volunteer at a CDA sponsored Show or Clinic. You will be awarded a Gift Certificate from The Equestrian Center at the annual awards party. There will also be a "Volunteer of the Year" award.

Volunteer Awards Criteria for 2005:

- In order **to** qualify for volunteer points you must be a CDA member at the time the hours are worked.
- You **must** fill out a "Verification of Volunteer Activity" form and have it signed by the event organizer in order for it to be eligible towards year end points. (Forms will be available at each event and on the web site)
- All **verification** forms must be mailed to the Volunteer Coordinator by November 5, 2005 in order for points to count towards Year-End Award.
- **Points** can only be earned at CDA sponsored Schooling shows, Clinics or the Spring Competition.

2005 Calendar of Events

April 2, 2005

CDA Clinic
It's All In Your Seat!
with Vicki Hammers-O'Neil
Once Again Farm
Meriden, CT
Leslie Weiss at 203-777-1950
lesweis47@yahoo.com

April 9, 2005

Equestrian Arts Productions
Musical Freestyle Seminar
Fox Ledge Farm
Contact:
860-873-3225
eqarts@snet.net
www.foxledgefarm.net

April 12 – 14, 2005

Dominique Barbier Clinic
Meenagha Ridges Farm
Registration and Information
www.ahorsefarm.com
Ruth Labbe 860-496-8568
aurora688@earthlink.net

April 16, 2005

Mystic Valley Hunt Club, Inc.
Spring Schooling Dressage and Two Phase
Contact: Lisa Crimm
860-464-7934
mysticvalleyhuntclub@juno.com
www.mysticvalleyhuntclub.com

April 16 & 17, 2005

Dressage Educational Weekend
w/Sarah Geikie and Deb Moynihan
Wishing Rock Farm
W. Suffield, CT
Contact: Deb Moynihan
(860) 646-8841
djmoynihan@snet.net

April 22, 23 & 24, 2005

Clinic with Mark Russell – author "Lessons in
Lightness-The Art of Educating the Horse"
White Wood Farm
Killingworth, CT
Contact: Maureen
860-434-1169
Mo@besobold.com

April 30, 2005

AHCC Spring Fling Horse Show
Three County Fairgrounds
Northampton, MA
Contact: Deb Thomas
860-526-9526
www.arabianhorseclubofconnecticut.org

May 1, 2005

CDCTA Schooling Dressage
and Combined Test
Wishing Rock Farm
Suffield, CT
Tricia Forster
860-487-908

May 1, 2005

CDA Schooling Show
Once Again Farm
Meriden, CT
Kari Bradshaw
860-542-5375

May 7, 2005

CDA Schooling Show
Coventry Equestrian Center
Coventry, CT
Donna Leonessa
860-742-8110

"Good Luck! Have a nice Ride!"

by Debra Reinhardt

There you are in the early summer, at your first Dressage show of the season, and it is pouring rain. You and your hugely expensive warm blood horse, Fred, are being told by a steward that you are on deck and need to leave the nice warm indoor to proceed to the competition ring. You proceed down to the competition ring when a ring steward whose name is Fredericka greets you. Of course, how would you see that nametag, as it is buried under many waterproof garments? The thought of an umbrella does not even enter into Fredericka's mind. At this point you are thinking "It would be nice to have an umbrella" and Fred is saying 'I already had my bath!' Fredericka is lovely and tells you the rider ahead of is just finishing the canter work and only has to halt and salute. Sure enough, you look over, see the salute, and you proceed to the ring when you hear 'Good Luck! Have a nice ride!' from Fredericka. You finish your test and head directly back to the stall thinking "Where did they find such a wonderful person to be so pleasant in the terrible weather?"

Fredericka is a volunteer!

By definition, a volunteer is one who enters into or offers themselves for a service of their own free will without valuable consideration or legal obligation. Thank you, Webster. The short version is: someone who agrees to do a job without being paid.

The Dressage world still depends on volunteers. Compared to the Hunter/Jumper discipline, Dressage shows and other Dressage functions primarily work with volunteers. These volunteers are the people who work extremely hard to make a show happen, a clinic to run smoothly, who help with fundraisers, who are the president and/or board members of the local dressage club, and countless other jobs. We are speaking about that little girl or boy being a runner in pouring rain, to the President of USEF and USDF. Yes, neither David O'Connor nor Sam Barish get paid to do that huge job with all that responsibility.

These people volunteer for the most important reason, and that is to feel good about doing something for others and for a cause. Like Fredericka who stood out in the rain all day so that the next rider was out in the weather as little as possible! She thought about the rider, and by making their ride easier, made her feel good about doing the job.

All of our schedules are getting really busy. Everyone is trying to balance a job, family, riding and all the other necessary activities, and finding extra hours to volunteer is nearly impossible. We hope that it never comes to this, but many shows, (like in Florida, for instance,) pay the scribes, stewards, etc. They are not really volunteers anymore, but are doing jobs that were once filled by volunteers. This is bad, because to have to pay for these jobs, the show fees to the competitors will have to go up. It is good because usually it means the person doing the job is good, reliable, and likes to do that particular job!

To prevent competitors from seeing show fees going up due to the need to pay the volunteers, please volunteer one show or function a season. Pick a show and say "I am going to give back to the sport." Here is another idea! If you had to scratch a show, see if you can volunteer. The weekend had already been dedicated to showing; so go and volunteer. If you were a late scratch, management might consider giving you part (or maybe all) of your entry fee back if you pull them out of a hard situation where a volunteer

"Good Luck!" Continued from page 2

cancelled at the last minute. Most of the time volunteers are given meals and refreshments, and with larger shows or multi-day clinics, you would get hotel to stay overnight.

If you do not find time to volunteer, find a friend who might be able to volunteer. They can come with you to the show and while you are off showing and doing your thing they can help the show by running or something.

Most important no matter when you volunteer, ie at a show, clinic, fundraiser, show up on time, be pleasant and have fun just like Fredericka!

Now back to our story about our wonderful ring steward, Fredericka. Our rider put Fred away in his stall with a nice warm Irish cooler and she replaced her wet clothes with nice

warm dry clothes. She got all dressed in rain gear to go out to get a cup of coffee. As she stood in line she thought about the fact that she was in the rain for only 10 minutes for her ride and Fredericka was still out there. "Miss! Miss! Can I help you? Miss!" She realized the food staff was trying to get her attention. "Coffee" she said quickly and with out a second going by she said "make that two, please!" Our rider proceeded over to Fredericka, gave her the coffee and said, "Go find a warm place and drink the coffee. I'll do this for a while!"

So moral of this story is, if you do not have time to volunteer, always thank a volunteer when you get a chance. It does not have to be with a coffee as our rider did, but a smile and a thank you goes a long way. It will make them feel good and they will come back. These volunteers keep not only the cost down but also make the sport a passion for all of us.

CDA AWARDS PROGRAM NOTES

The 2005 show season is beginning with two CDA sponsored schooling shows offered in the month of May! In addition, there are many other facilities that have advertised their schooling show prize lists in our 2005 OMNIBUS.

A Reminder: CDA members can use the scores earned at any of these shows toward CDA Year-end Awards provided that one score is from a CDA sponsored schooling show.

This is a good time to review your new 2005 OMNIBUS Year-end Awards Program on pages 21-24. All the rules are outlined and defined in this section. This information is also available on the CDA website at www.ctdressageassoc.org where you can print additional copies of the schooling show entry forms. Feel free to contact me with any questions. (Home: 203-573-0919 or email: Awards@ctdressageassoc.org)

The following are awards that will be presented at all five CDA sponsored schooling shows:

- ❖ **Ribbons:** First through sixth place ribbons will be awarded in each class
- ❖ **Double L Equine Express High Point Awards:** CDA wishes to acknowledge and honor the generosity of Double L Equine Express for donating the following awards for our five 2005 Schooling Shows:
 1. **Adult High Point rider of each show** will receive a beautiful leather Halter with brass hardware, adjustable crown and noseband, double stitching along with a matching leather lead with a 24 inch brass chain and snap. The halter will have a monogrammed brass plate "CDA 2005 Adult High Point"
 2. **Youth High Point rider of each show** will receive a beautiful Sure Grip Whip. These whips are made in England by expert craftsmen and they are perfectly balanced with soft rubber sure-grip handles for comfort which are thread covered and lacquered for comfort.
- ❖ **CDA High Point Award Medals:** Awarded to the Adult Amateur **and** the Youth rider with the High Percentage Scores of the show (excluding the Equitation Class). These medals are beautiful!

As riders, trainers, volunteers, parents, supporters you are all important to CDA and I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful 2005 season...enjoy the ride!

Marcie Gordon
CDA Awards Coordinator

Opening Date: April 1, 2005

Closing Date: April 23, 2005

**Sunday - May 1, 2005
Connecticut Dressage Association
Schooling Show**

**Location - Once Again Farm
750 Allen Ave.
Meriden, CT 06451**

Judge: TBA

**Secretary: Kari Bradshaw
110 Goshen East St.
Norfolk, CT 06058
860-542-5375**

Class List: USDF 2003 Introductory Tests A-B.
USEF 2003 Training 1-4.
USEF 2003 First 1-4.
USEF 2003 Second and above-State test to be ridden.
Dressage Seat Equitation. (Youth and Adult Amateurs only)

Fees: CDA members \$25 per Class.
Non-members \$30 per test.
Number deposit: \$1
Checks payable to CDA.
No refunds after closing date.

Awards: Up to six ribbons awarded in each class.
CDA High Point Award Medal: Awarded to the Adult Amateur and Junior Young Rider with the High Percentage Score of the show (excluding Equitation Class)
Double L Equine Express High Point Award: Awarded to the rider with the High Percentage Score of the show for Adult and Junior Young Rider (excluding Equitation Class)

Rules: Number of rides per horse/rider combination may be limited to two. State two preferred tests first on application. Current negative Coggins within 12 months is mandatory and must accompany entry. All competitors must wear ASTM approved helmets while mounted or head gear appropriate to the level. Classes may be combined, split, or canceled at the discretion of management. Family pets not allowed on the premises. Please treat the grounds as you would your own property. Place all trash in designated containers; no alcohol, please.

Times: Call the show secretary the Friday evening before the show between 6 - 9 P.M. or you will be able to view the ride times on the CDA Website on Saturday before the show.

Directions: From 1-91 North: Take exit 17 to 691 West. Take Exit 4 off 691W. Turn left at the end of ramp. **Turn right onto third residential street, Gwen Road. At the end of Gwen Rd. turn right onto Johnson Ave. Take the first left onto Finch Ave. Go 7/10 miles on Finch to Allen Avenue, turn left. Once Again Farm is 100 feet ahead on the right. From 1-91 South: Take Exit 18 onto 691 West. Then follow directions from 1-91 North. From 1-84 East and West: Take Exit 27 onto 691. Take Exit 4; at end of ramp, turn right. Then follow directions from 1-91 beginning with **

Opening Date: April 11, 2005

Closing Date: May 3, 2005

**Saturday, May 7th 2005
Connecticut Dressage Association
Schooling Show**

**Location - Coventry Equestrian Center
220 Talcott Hill Road, Coventry, CT**

Judge: Luis Reteguiz-Denizard (L)

**Secretary: Donna Leonessa
3080 South Street
Coventry, CT 06238
860-742-8110**

Class List: USDF 2003 Introductory Tests A-B.
USEF 2003 Training 1-4.
USEF 2003 First 1-4.
USEF 2003 Second and above-State test to be ridden.
Dressage Seat Equitation. (Youth and Adult Amateurs only)

Fees: CDA members \$25 per Class.
Non-members \$30 per test.
Number deposit: \$1
Checks payable to CDA.
No refunds after closing date.

Awards: Up to six ribbons awarded in each class.
CDA High Point Award Medal: Awarded to the Adult Amateur and Junior Young Rider with the High Percentage Score of the show (excluding Equitation Class)
Double L Equine Express High Point Award: Awarded to the rider with the High Percentage Score of the show for Adult and Junior Young Rider (excluding Equitation Class)

Rules: Number of rides per horse/rider combination may be limited to two. State two preferred tests first on application. Current negative Coggins within 12 months is mandatory and must accompany entry. All competitors must wear ASTM approved helmets while mounted or head gear appropriate to the level. Classes may be combined, split, or canceled at the discretion of management. Family pets not allowed on the premises. Please treat the grounds as you would your own property. Place all trash in designated containers; no alcohol, please.

Times: Call the show secretary the Friday evening before the show between 6 - 9 P.M. or email: dleonessa@hotmail.com to have the schedule emailed to you. You will be able to view the ride times on the CDA Website on the Friday before the show.

Directions: Rte 84 to Rte 384 to Rte 44. Follow Rte 44 for 4.5 miles and make a Right onto Route 31 after Highland Park Market. Follow approximately 1.5 miles and make a Right onto Talcott Hill Road. The farm driveway is 0.5 miles on the right.

Fern Z. Feldman
890 Mountain Road
Cheshire, CT 06410-3307

Phone: (203) 272-0711
Fax: (203) 250-0333
E-Mail: FernF@cox.net

March 14, 2005

To all GMO's:

By now, all of you have heard about USDF's National Education Center to be built in the Kentucky Horse Park. All of us involved with USDF are enthusiastic about the project, and our concerted effort to raise the required five million dollars is ongoing. With groundbreaking due the summer of 2005, there is a sense of urgency to our requests for your support.

If you would like to contribute as an individual, and need more information, please contact me any time. We will be happy to tailor your gift intentions so they benefit both USDF and you. Did you know that a few of us (Renee and Guy Leibler, Theresa Davidson, and myself) have gotten together to spearhead the effort to raise \$250,000.00 so that we can name the bookstore the LENDON GRAY BOOKSTORE? Would you like to contribute to that effort specifically? Again, please contact me. We are more than halfway there, and we feel that we will be successful, but this is a big effort, and we would appreciate your contributions. The group of us who are behind this effort feel that Lendon has been such an influence on the sport of dressage, especially in our region. She champions the youth, but her past personal successes as an equestrian speak for themselves. She has been active in Region 8, whether it be in clinics, shows, symposia, GMO's, or her own Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival—so many of you know her personally, or know what she believes. Every gift, large and small, is welcome, and will be recognized. So, consider what influence Lendon has had on you, and get in touch with me.

And, did you know that there are 130 GMO's in the country? How large is yours? How successful? How active? Can you, as an organization, contribute to the USDF National Education Center? Of course the answer is a resounding YES! USDF has established a program that encourages GMO's to contribute and be recognized for the level that is appropriate. Each GMO has received information from USDF outlining the program, but essentially, each GMO is being asked to contribute an amount over a period of 1 to 3 years, the amount being determined by the size of the membership. I know of a couple of GMO's that have been so anxious to support USDF, that they have already made their pledges. The nice thing about this program is that it allows GMO's to increase their pledges and gifts during subsequent years, and then get increased recognition for the efforts. GMO's are being encouraged to be creative in figuring out ways to raise some dollars, if they don't feel that their treasuries are in a position to make an outright gift. I encourage GMO leaders to discuss this initiative, and to involve their members in deciding how they want their particular GMO to be recognized.

USDF has come a long way. There is so much that is positive in the leadership and the running of the organization. The improvements in the internet capabilities alone are remarkable. The interchange with USEF that has begun and is moving along is extremely positive. USDF is a service organization that is trying very hard to please all of us—its members. Help us keep improving as we establish a permanent home in Lexington, KY.

Fern Feldman
Region 8 Director

All articles are to be submitted by the 15th of the month.
They can be mailed to me at:

John Gordon
Attn. CENTERLINE
24 Darren Court
Waterbury, CT 06708-3903

or
They can be Emailed to me at
Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org



Please send them as an Attachment in either Word for Windows, WordPerfect, RTF or in a plain text file Format if possible.

Attention Show and Clinic Organizers, Trainers, Stables and Organizations:

Don't forget to send us information about your activities for the 2005 CDA Calendar of Events!!! Send a one-line description, dates, locations, and contact person's name and phone number. We'll be delighted to include it in Centerline's regular calendar at no cost.

Thanks,
John

Double L wishes all
a collection of successes in 2005!

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Make Checks payable to CDA

This ad is good for
10% off purchases of \$25 or more
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Centerline

Send Address changes to:

Heidi Nottelman

12 Easy Street

Plainfield, CT 06374

(860) 564-0214

e-mail: Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

CDA Newsletter for April, 2005

CDA BOARD MEETING Monday April 11, 2005 at 6:15 PM

Call Fern Feldman at 203-272-0711 or Email - Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org for directions.