



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

February 2008

President

M. Chris Rogers Aquilio
203-268-1633
President@ctdressageassoc.org

Vice President

Leslie Weiss
203-865-6156 ext. 1
VP@ctdressageassoc.org

Membership Secretary

Heidi Nottelman
860-779-7816
Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

Recording Secretary

Fern Feldman
203-272-0711
Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org

Treasurer

Stephanie Rossi
860-621-194
Treasurer@ctdressageassoc.org

Education Coordinator

Donna Leonessa
860-742-8110
Education@ctdressageassoc.org

Omnibus

John Gordon
Omnibus@ctdressageassoc.org

Centerline

John Gordon
203-573-0919
Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org

Awards Coordinator

Debra Reinhardt
203-264*2148
Awards@ctdressageassoc.org

Youth Program Coordinator

Vicki Hammers-O'Neil
203-238-3553
YPC@ctdressageassoc.org

Youth Representative

Kate Lussier
203-265-1977
JrYR@ctdressageassoc.org

Board

Kari Bradshaw
860-542-5375
Debra Reinhardt
203-264-2148

CENTERLINE

Send address changes to
Heidi Nottelman
179 Stetson Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234
860-779-7816
Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

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

Hello everyone,

Hope you are enjoying the brisk winter weather, and you and your horses are staying nice and warm. The snowy winter days allow for a perfect opportunity to curl up next to a warm fire and get caught up on all that reading we put off during the warmer months. Speaking of, if you have read a good book lately, and wish to share what you have read, we would love to publish your book review in our Centerline newsletter. We really want to include more articles and letters from our members every month. If you have any horse related stories or have participated in a really excellent clinic that you want to tell about please do not hesitate to send your story or article in. John gathers all the articles for the Centerline by the 15th of the month so get them in by then. I would also welcome any "Letters to the President". I would love to start a new section of our Centerline to open a forum for our members to share their concerns or opinions and give direct feedback to them.

One of the major perks of being a member of the CDA is receiving our annual Omnibus. It is a valuable resource with a wealth of information such as prize lists for shows, details on CDA programs and policies, the CDA membership directory, and all dressage tests from Intro to FEI compiled into one well organized place. The omnibus for 2008 is being completed and reviewed, and will be mailed out the first week of March. You will also receive your CDA membership card with this. If for some reason you do not receive your omnibus or card, please let us know.

As you all know, John Gordon has been the one to bring you the Centerline every month, keeps our website updated, and puts together our Omnibus once a year. We are currently looking for members who have talents or interests in publishing and website design to help with this process. If you think you might enjoy working with John to assist in any of these tasks, please let us know. The work John does is vital to our organization, and we need to bring along new people to help with these tasks. If you are interested, please contact John Gordon (centerline@ctdressageassoc.org) or myself (president@ctdressageassoc.org).

The CDA is also currently looking for a "sunshine lady". This person would be in charge of hospitality and greeting participants at our shows and activities. If you love meeting new people and think you may like to be in charge of hospitality let us know. This person would be very involved with the competitor party at the recognized show, would act as a liaison with sponsors and vendors, would greet and help provide general information at shows and clinics, and would just make sure all are happy. Don't we all love to arrive at a clinic or show and be greeted with a helpful, smiling face? If you think you might be interested, let me know.

Enjoy the rest of the winter; spring will be here before you know it. I will look forward to seeing each one of you at our upcoming activities and shows.

See you soon,
Chris

2008 Calendar of Events

April 6, 2008

Wells Valley Farm
New Milford, CT
Katja Eilers
44 Blackrock Turnpike
Redding, CT. 06896

April 20, 2008

CDA Musical Freestyle Clinic
With Ann Guptil
Fox Ledge Farm
East Haddam, CT
Contact:
Donna Leonessa
dleonessa@hotmail.com
860-742-8110

April 26, 2008

Babcock Hill Equestrian Center
Coventry, CT
Terry Glendinning
860-742-0616
tm09g@yahoo.com

May 4, 2008

CDA Schooling Show
Once Again Farm
Meriden, CT
Marisa Evans
203-217-6150

May 11, 2008

Wells Valley Farm
New Milford, CT
Katja Eilers
44 Blackrock Turnpike
Redding, CT. 06896

June 7 and 8, 2008

CDA Recognized Show
Kasson Ridge Farm
Bethlehem, CT
M. Chris Rogers Aquilio
(203) 268-1633

June 22, 2008

Wells Valley Farm
New Milford, CT
Pam Lund
101 Fern Ave
Litchfield, CT. 06795

July 16 2008

Fox Ledge Farm Schooling Show
East Haddam, CT
Contact:
Ann Guptil
860-873-8108

July 20, 2007

Abacus Events Schooling Show
R Folly Farm
Morris, CT
Contact:
Nancy Blanchard
860-283-8748

Robert Higgins Named 2007 USDF Volunteer of the Year

Lexington, KY (December 20, 2007) - The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) announced the winner of the 2007 USDF Volunteer of the Year Award, presented by The Paddock Saddlery, at the 2007 Adequan/USDF Annual Convention. This award recognizes a USDF member who, through consistent and cumulative volunteer activities, has demonstrated exceptional commitment towards carrying out USDF's mission. As the winner, Robert was presented with a perpetual trophy, which is permanently on display in the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame, will be featured in the yearbook issue of *USDF Connection*, and received a "keeper" trophy and \$500 gift certificate from The Paddock Saddlery.

Hailing from Winter Springs, Florida, Robert has been volunteering for USDF for a very long time, attending his first annual convention in 1984 and soon becoming a member and eventually chairing the Fiscal Review Committee and later the USDF Budget and Finance Committee. Robert has also served as co-chairman of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Representatives Committee since 2004 and serves on the USEF Fiscal Review and Competition Management Committees. Additionally, he played an integral role in the USEF committee that restructured competition licensing rules. Robert's most recent involvement in the USDF council and committee structure includes conceiving the newly created USDF Audit Committee and serving as its first chairman.

In 2007, Robert served as the Master of Ceremonies for awards, coordinator of judges' transportation, and coordinator of the Gentleman's Committee for the Raleigh, Dressage at Devon, and New England Dressage Association CDIs, the FEI North American Junior and Young Riders' Championships, and the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 1, 3, and 8 Dressage Championships. In 2006, Robert also stepped in, at the last minute, as manager for the entire 2006 Raleigh CDI competition.

USDF Secretary, Janine Malone, praised Robert for his "extraordinary commitment to his volunteer responsibilities," adding that, "He is very dependable and thorough in carrying out his commitments and actively promotes USDF to other disciplines outside the dressage community."

For more information on the USDF Volunteer of the Year Award, presented by The Paddock Saddlery, visit the USDF Web site at www.usdf.org or contact the USDF office at voyaward@usdf.org.

2008 CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION CLINICS

MUSICAL FREESTYLE CLINIC

CDA presents a clinic with Ann Guptill, FEI Trainer and owner of Equestrian Arts Productions
Sunday, April 20, 2007 at Fox Ledge Farm, East Haddam, CT

This clinic will focus on musical freestyles including how to select music for your horse, choreography of your freestyle and artistic impression. Both auditors and riders will gain a better understanding of musical freestyles through the lecture and riding sessions. Musical freestyles can help all riders improve their ability to ride in a consistent rhythm (with the music); to influence and regulate the rhythm and tempo of the gait; the ability to develop creativity in riding movements and patterns; timing; and to identify and bring out your horse's strengths through your riding. There will be individual rider sessions where Ann can assist riders with refining their current freestyle, choreography, and music search. Look for Registration information in the February Centerline Newsletter. Please contact Donna Leonessa dleonessa@hotmail.com 860-933-1854 for more information or to sign up as slots will fill quickly.

Luis Denizard, a FEI rider who recently rode at the 2007 Pan Am Games. Lou is heading to Florida to try to qualify for the 2008 Olympic on Paige Finnegan's Karola. Lou will demo his musical freestyle on Karola. Come and watch this pair show off their musical freestyle with Ann helping to put the final touches on it.

RIDING CLINIC WITH BILL WARREN

Spring of 2008 at Grandview Uptown, Columbia, CT

CDA will be hosting a riding clinic with Bill Warren. Bill is a USEF 'R' Judge and USDF Gold Medalist. Bill has accumulated many regional and national awards. Bill studied dressage in Austria with Ernst Bachinger, of the Spanish Riding School in the early 1980's and was a working student for Karl Mikolka at Tempel Farms. In recent years he has worked with Janet Black, Gunnar Ostergaard, Gerd Zuther and currently with George Williams who helps over the winter months in Florida.

Please contact Esther Roberts, esther.roberts@juno.com 860-416-8555 for more information or to sign up as slots will fill quickly.

MYSTERIES OF THE HALF HALT

CDA will be sponsoring an educational clinic with Luis Denizard
Fall of 2008

The clinic will focus on teaching horse/rider combinations exercises and patterns to improve their understanding of the half halt. Both riders and auditors will gain a better understanding of how to execute a half halt, when to execute a half halt and the different types of half halts. Lou's qualifications and achievements include USDF Certified Instructor through Fourth Level, Graduate USDF "L" Judge program with Distinction; USDF Bronze & Silver Medalist; 2004 NEDA Scholarship Recipient and the list goes on.

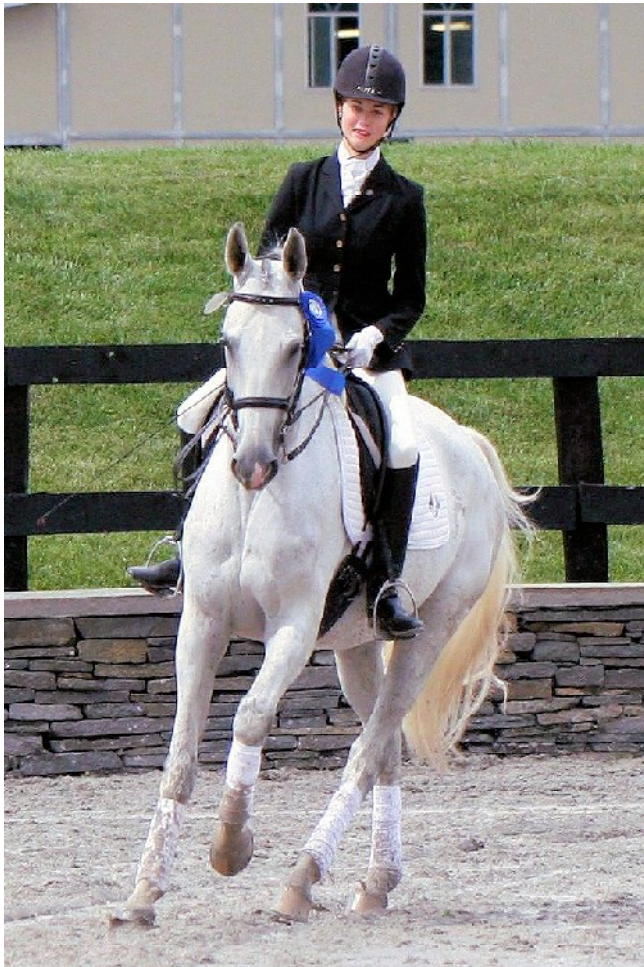
Please contact Donna Leonessa dleonessa@hotmail.com 860-742-8110 for more information or to sign up as slots will fill quickly.

Kansas City and Beyond

By

Mary Bahniuk Lauritsen

“You should apply for this,” suggested my mom, pointing to the USDF Youth Scholarship announcement in the USDF Connection magazine. I had never considered applying for the scholarship to attend the annual USDF Convention in 2006, but I figured it was worth a try. Before I knew it, the winners of the scholarships were announced. I was completely elated on being selected, I did not even know what kind of learning and bonding experience I was in for.



Mary and her horse Rossi

There we were, good ole’ Kansas City, Missouri. My mother and I stepped through the doors of the convention center and were immediately greeted by familiar faces. Booths full of exciting information, horse-lovers shopping paradise, and an itinerary overflowing with interesting information sessions, I knew that applying for this scholarship had been well worth it already. Though it was well below twenty degrees outside, I was warm with making new friends with other young riders from all over the country. It was a blast spending time with all the other dressage crazy girls that I had met while at the convention, but it was not all fun and games.

As part of the scholarship the four winners were invited to attend the closed Youth Executive Board meeting. I was immediately intrigued by all the young women, much like myself, who sat around the table discussing improvements for youth programs throughout each of their regions. I sat anxiously in my chair wanting so much to participate in the conversation! However, the scholarship winners were asked to keep our thoughts to ourselves since we were not part of the board. I was watching this fabulous discussion in front of me and wanted so much to be apart of it, and so I was determined to be in the future.

I would have never guessed that only a year later I would be sitting around that very same table as the Youth Executive Representative for Region 8. With much hard work I was nominated and then elected by my peers the Youth Representative. A feeling very much like the one I had when I was selected scholarship winner a year ago, overcame me when I saw my official name on the

USDF website. If I had overlooked the opportunity for the scholarship in the first place I would have never gained this important role as a Youth Representative. I am incredibly thankful for this, and would recommend that any young individual apply for the USDF Youth Scholarship to attend the convention. The experience was not only socially and educationally moving, but it opened my eyes to a whole other part of the USDF that I am now so gratefully apart of.



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION PROMOTING DRESSAGE IN AMERICA THROUGH EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY



MUSICAL FREESTYLE CLINIC

Clinic Date: Sunday, April 20, 2008 **Clinic Starts at 9:00 am**
Clinic Location: Fox Ledge Farm, East Haddam, CT

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Interested clinic riders should contact: Donna Leonessa, Adult Education Coordinator, dleonessa@hotmail.com or 860-742-8110 for more details. First come, first served. Video Services will be available to riders for a fee by Equestrian Arts Productions, LLC. Please contact Equestrian Arts directly at 860-873-3225 or eqarts@snet.net if riders are interested.

In order to keep clinic rates down, we are asking that riders and auditors bring their own chairs. We appreciate your help in this effort.

MUSICAL FREESTYLE CLINIC

Clinic Date: Sunday, April 20, 2008 Clinic Starts at 9:00 am
Clinic Location: Fox Ledge Farm, East Haddam, CT

CLINIC RIDER AND AUDITOR SIGN UP

Riders - First Come, First Served. Auditors who pre-register by 4/15 will have lunch included with fee

Name _____ Telephone: _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

RIDER FEES

<u>PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:</u>	<u>CDA Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
	75.00	95.00

Please provide short bio of your horse and yourself for inclusion in the Clinic Brochure. Provide copy of Negative Coggins and Rabies Certificate.

AUDITOR FEES

<u>PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:</u>	<u>CDA Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
	\$20.00	\$45.00

Please send Rider and Auditor Sign Up with check payable to CDA to: Donna Leonessa, Dleonessa@hotmail.com (860) 742-8110, Adult Education Coordinator, 3080 South Street, Coventry, CT 06238. Riders will be contacted with clinic details.

In order to keep clinic rates down, we are asking that riders and auditors bring their own chairs. We appreciate your help in this effort.

RIDER'S RELEASE OF LIABILITY – READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS BEFORE YOU SIGN IT

In consideration for _____ (the "Rider") being permitted to participate in the riding clinic sponsored or organized by The Connecticut Dressage Association, Inc. ("CDA") on April 10, 2008 at Fox Ledge Farm (the "Farm"), the Rider and his/her parents (if Rider is under 18 years of age) agree that CDA, the Farm, the clinician, and their agents, members, volunteers and assistants shall not be liable for, and agree to hold them harmless from, any accident, personal injury, death or property damage that may be sustained by any person or entity, including without limitation the Rider, as a result in whole or in part from the Rider's participation in the clinic. This agreement is binding on the Rider and his/her parents whether or not said accident, personal injury, death or property damage is due in whole or in part to the negligence of CDA, the Farm, the clinician or any of their agents, members, volunteers or assistants. The Rider and his/her parents (if Rider is under 18 years of age) agree to defend and indemnify CDA, the Farm, the clinician and their agents, members, volunteers and assistants for any claims, demands, or suits arising from the Rider's participation in the clinic, including without limitation those arising in whole or in part from the negligence of CDA, the Farm, the clinician or their agents, members, volunteers or assistants.

This release is signed on _____, 2008 Rider or Rider's Parent _____

2008 Advertising Rates

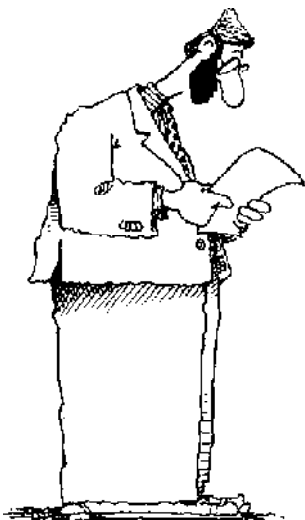
	<u>CDA Members</u>		<u>Non-CDA Member</u>	
<u>Page Size</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year</u>
Business Card	\$25	\$100	\$50	\$200
¼ Page	\$30	\$150	\$60	\$300
½ Page	\$35	\$200	\$70	\$350
Full Page	\$40	\$250	\$80	\$400

Make Checks payable to CDA

In my opinion, a horse is the animal to have. Eleven-hundred pounds of raw muscle, power, grace, and sweat between your legs - it's something you just can't get from a pet hamster.

~Author Unknown

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

In the Subject line: Centerline

Please send them as an Attachment in either Word for Windows, WordPerfect, RTF or in a plain text file Format if possible. Files should be less than 1mb in size.

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

Don't forget to send us information about your activities for the 2008 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

Centerline

Send Address changes to:

Heidi Nottelman

179 Stetson Road

Brooklyn, CT 06234

860-779-7816

e-mail: Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

CDA Newsletter for February, 2008

CDA BOARD MEETING Thursday February 14, 2008 at 6:15 PM
Call Fern Feldman at 203-272-0711 or Email - Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org for directions.