



## Editor's Notes...

Welcome to Spring!!!! On March 20 we officially ushered in that time-honored sign that show season is starting: Shedding. Horse hair here, horse hair there, horse hair in every inappropriate place imaginable. Once we're

*"In riding a horse we borrow freedom"*

*-Helen Thomson*

done getting all that hair off our horses...and out of our mouths, undergarments, and noses... we need to turn our attention to preparing for the first competitions of the season. So before hauling out of the driveway make sure you are truly prepared so you can avoid any uh-oh moments.

-Have you paid all of membership fees? Remember to renew your membership with USDF, USEF, and MDA

in order to qualify for year-end awards.

-Have you made sure that your tow vehicle and trailer are in safe working order?

-Have you vaccinated your equine partner and had

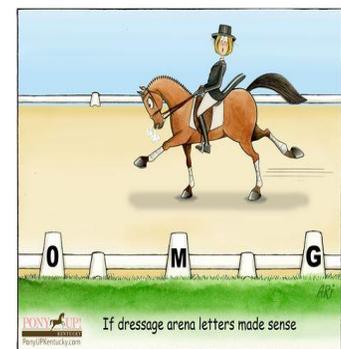
Coggins pulled? Remember also to provide proof of vaccinations and negative Coggins when you enter a show!

-Is all of your show attire properly fitted and in good condition? Make sure that you always try on your show clothes before the first competition of the year to make sure that they are not too tight or too loose.

-Are you familiar with the venue that you are going to be showing at? If not, make sure you have printed out directions and know if there will be any detours you need to know about.

Remember, we show because it's fun. So the most important thing you should always remember to bring to any competition is a good sense of humor! Good luck and keep a leg on each side!!!

-Allison





## Meeting Notes: Board of Directors March Meeting...

The Midwest Dressage Association Board met on March 5 at the Comeback Inn in Highland. They were happy to have Sue Machin as a guest as MDA members are always a welcome addition to the meetings. The MDA is also proud to announce the addition of Karen Suit to the board to fill the vacancy left by Barbra Reis. Karen is nurse and has scribed and braided and resides in Rose Township.

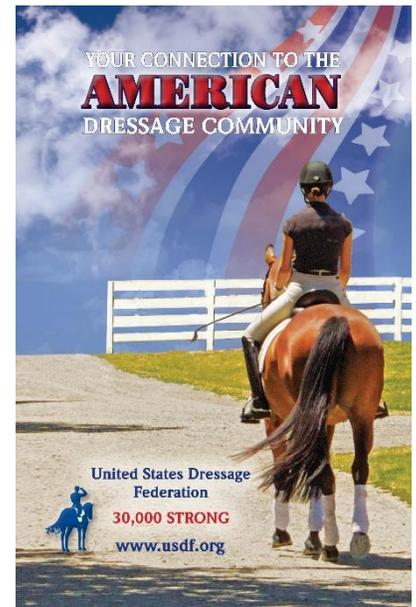
President Will Davis informed the board that spots for the Dressage Boot Camp at Rattlewood Farm are filling quickly. This MDA sponsored event has proven to be a huge success in the past and should be again. Applications for the Freestyle clinic with Terry Gallo are still being accepted and fantastic turnout is expected.

Beth Schaub provided examples of the awesome year-end awards that she has been working on including scrim sheets and saddle pads. Beth is famous for providing competitors with drool-worthy awards every year and her contributions to the board are invaluable. In addition to seeing some of the awards, Denise Gentile confirmed that the MDA Awards banquet will be November 19 at.....

Remember that all MDA members are more than welcome to join in at board meetings. Due to the start of show season meetings are now being moved to Wednesdays. The next meeting will be held Wednesday April 5 at 6:00pm at the Comeback Inn in Highland. Hope to see you there!



MDA President Will Davis and board member Tonya Grant man the MDA booth at the Michigan Horse Expo.



*To ride a horse well, you have to know it as well as you know your best friend.*

*-Katie Monahan Prudent*



## ***Terry Ciotti Gallo Returns!!!***

Please join us as we welcome back Terry Ciotti Gallo for a Musical Freestyle Clinic in Fenton, MI on May 20 and 21. This is a USDF and USEF approved judges CE Clinic for musical freestyle. The cost for the clinic is \$375/ride for MDA members and \$450/ride for non-members. The fee for auditors is \$25/day for MDA members and \$35/day for non-members. Please visit the News & Updates page on our website for more information and registration. The clinic is limited to 8 riders. We are excited that we can now accept applications and payment directly from our website via PayPal.

Terry brings a wealth of information to her clinics and she is always a hit with riders. Come join the fun!

## **MDA Used Tack Sale!**

The MDA proudly presents our used tack sale September 9& 10! We are accepting gently used blankets, tack, equipment and riding apparel to be sold at the September Schooling Dressage show at Rattlewood Farm. Proceeds will go towards year-end awards and donors can receive a tax donation receipt. You can drop off items at any of the Rattlewood Schooling Shows or give them to any MDA Board member throughout the year. You can usually find a lot of board members at various other shows like Dressage at Waterloo as well.

Help support our year-end awards program and clean up your barn at the same time!

*Look for the 2017 MDA Directory coming to a mailbox near you in May!*





## **TDF Awards Carolyn Van Cise Fund Grant to Abigail Sykes**

The Dressage Foundation is pleased to announce that the Carolyn Van Cise Memorial Sportsmanship Fund Grant has been awarded to young rider Abigail Sykes of Twin Lake, Michigan. Abigail intends to use the \$500 grant for lessons on her warmblood mare, Fly, with Katherine Bateson-Chandler. Abigail is a high school senior, member of All Dressage Association and Grand River Pony Club. In 2016, Abigail earned her Bronze Medal and hopes to complete her scores this year for her Silver. Abigail takes regular lessons from Laurie Moore and has long term goals of developing herself and Fly for the FEI Young

Rider Team for NAJYRC in a few years. "I am so excited to be given such a great opportunity and am incredibly grateful for the chance to ride with Katherine Bateson-Chandler, an amazing clinician. The Carolyn Van Cise Memorial Sportsmanship Grant will help to expand my knowledge with Fly in the sport of dressage," said Abigail. "Thank you to everyone who made this possible; to The Dressage Foundation for selecting me, to my trainers who push me, and to my parents who support me. I wouldn't be where I am today without you!" Carolyn Van Cise was active in Michigan's dressage community for many years as a trainer, instructor, judge, and mentor. Dressage was her passion and she served as a role model for those she knew. The Carolyn Van Cise Memorial Sportsmanship Grant is awarded annually to a Junior/Young Rider who is a current Michigan resident and best exemplifies the qualities that Carolyn found most important in life, including exhibiting the characteristics that demonstrate positive sportsmanship principles. Recipients of this grant will receive \$500 to be used

towards expenses associated with attending a specific educational eventing or dressage event of their choice.

For more information about the Carolyn Van Cise Memorial Sportsmanship Fund or The Dressage Foundation, please contact

Jenny Johnson at (402) 434-8585, by email at [jenny@dressagefoundation.org](mailto:jenny@dressagefoundation.org), or visit <http://www.dressagefoundation.org/>



*Abigail Sykes, winner of the Carolyn Van Cise Memorial Sportsmanship Fund Grant.*

## **Paralympian! Equestrian! Warrior! This is Dale Dedrick**

I don't know if Dale Dedrick would describe herself as a warrior but having met her I certainly would. Dale is like those toys with the weighted round base that no matter how often you knock them over they just come right back up. But let me start at the beginning.

Dale was 12 when she started to ride. Her mother paid for 10 lessons. "I was hooked," she says. Then her grandmother paid for 10 more lessons. That was the beginning. She worked weekends at the local stable, cleaning tack, grooming horses and ponies. And she was allowed to ride:

"Anything we could catch." So Dale and her friends would catch a horse or pony out in the paddock and leap on without a saddle or bridle. Later she moved on and bought a Thoroughbred off the track and taught him to jump and did the junior American Hunter classes. "Then education caught up with me." She went to medical school at the age of 19 and during that time she did not ride. But during her surgical residency she took it up again. "I was always happy when I rode so I decided I had to get back to that." She leased a Grand

Prix dressage mare from Chuck Grant and he told her she could not show the mare lower than Grand Prix. So, what did Dale do? Well, she showed the mare Grand Prix! "I went about learning the Grand Prix. I went to a show in Illinois and went into the ring never having done the 15 ones (changes of lead every stride). My goal was to go across the diagonal and move my legs 15 times." She did it and the mare completed the 15 changes. "But I didn't steer too well and ended up halfway down the long side. When I got to the judge I almost stopped and said: 'I've just accomplished a miracle but I thought 'nah' I'll ride the rest of the test.'"

In 1983-84 she did the Grand Prix a few more times. And in 1986, when the mare was in foal, she found a Quarter horse trained to Prix St. George and rode him in the Olympic Festival in Texas for the North Team.

It was during her surgical residency that Dale was diagnosed with Lupus. That was the end of the surgical residency but her hospital family saw to it that she would have some income and she was hired part time to work in the ER. In this way, she managed to finish her residency. But the Lupus got worse. She suffered two small strokes and then a bigger stroke left her with weakness in her right arm, left leg and vision impairment in one eye.

She was told she must take two years off. Those two years expanded into a much longer time. "I'm still off," she told me, with a wry smile.

Dale then spent some years struggling with poor health and was in and out of hospital. On top of this she was run over by a car when a Senior driver backed up without looking and struck her down. The Lupus gained an upper hand and affected her heart and she had open heart surgery. Following this, due to the Lupus and the medications she was on, she was bedridden and ballooned to 205 pounds.

"I had to learn to walk. I was very unhappy and I thought: 'I should ride'. Dale got the weight off and started on a friend's horse at the walk only. She also started to work with Roz Kinstler in 2007, who she had known and worked with in the 80's. It was not long after that Dale was seen by Hope Hand who, at the time, was the president of the US Para-Equestrian Association. "You should be a para rider." Hope told her. That was the beginning of Dale's career as a para equestrian. Dale and Roz learned what would be required and the journey began. By 2011 Dale was confident that she was a good para rider. She was in Florida for the winter. "My groom and I got two mugs that said: 'On the road to London' on them. So, we said: "We could

go for London!" And they did. Dale rode on Team USA in the London Paralympics. "I had an amazing time. At first, it was a real eye opener to see the quality of the horses the British and the Europeans were riding. I was not prepared for that level of the riding and the magnificent horses. But as I watched them over time, I began to realize they were not unbeatable. But I knew it would be hard work."

Any hopes Dale may have had for the Paralympics in Rio were dashed by a return of health problems. In 2014 she learned that the heart valve she had was not functioning properly. It would need to be replaced. This would be the third open heart surgery for Dale. The surgeon gave her a 30% chance of mortality with the surgery. In 2016 she suffered congestive heart failure and the chance had to be taken. Dale went back to her first cardio surgeon and he was optimistic. He lowered the chance of death to only 7%. In February 2016 Dale had the surgery. This time the valve was metal and would "last a lifetime" as Dale told me. But this meant she had to be on blood thinners and the surgeon forbade her to ride horses.

Did that stop her? No! She told Roz she wanted to get back to riding as soon as she was able. Roz, at first, was unwilling to take the risk. Dale bargained with her. "I

told Roz she could pick the horse for me." So, Roz went to look for a horse; safe, bombproof, but with good enough gaits and a 10 for temperament.

She found him. A 14.3 hand Buckskin pony. 50% Connemara 25% Thoroughbred 25% Percheron. And 100% Right for Dale. They called him Suede. At one of her early rides Dale was walking him alongside the barn and someone accidentally threw a bucket of water out of a stall window and it hit Suede. He shook his head and trotted two steps and stopped. Another time, early in their relationship, gunshots rang out from a nearby farm, horses in the paddock bolted but Suede only twitched an ear. 100% the right horse for Dale.

This winter they started showing at White Fences Equestrian. There was a small spook in one test but he quickly recomposed himself. Then directly on to a CPEDI (International level competition) at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival. "Each test he got better and better." Dale told me. She was very happy with him and also with the comment from a British para expert who told her he felt that Suede would be capable of being an international competitor.



*Dale and Suede in the CPEDI at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival*

Is Dale planning international competition with Suede? What about the World Equestrian Games in Tryon, NC next year? "Why not?" is Dale's response. "It is a long road ahead and the selection criteria have not been written at this point in time." she says. But Dale has it in her sights. And in the meantime?

Well, when she gets home to Michigan, Dale will be competing in para reining competitions on a borrowed horse and also competing with Suede during the summer. "You've got to get out and show. You can't learn to manage your emotions if you only train at home."

"I'm not a good walker but I can ride. I have a scooter so I can get around but I don't go to malls. I just shop on line. My other pastime is quilting. I can't do it by hand but I do machine quilting. I love fabric and the pretty colors." I asked Dale how she keeps going and what could she say

to others who are struggling with serious health issues.

"Keep going. You don't have a choice."

And finally..... "God has something he wants me to do. I think I am doing it. "

Amen! Paralympian!  
Equestrian! Warrior!



*Article and photo credit: Anne Leueen. Check out her blog at [horseaddict.net](http://horseaddict.net).*

## **Board Member**

### **Spotlight...**

#### **Meet Beth Schaub!**

All MDA members know that when they receive a year-end award it is going to be something very nice. Well everyone has Beth Schaub to thank for that. The time and hard work that Beth puts in to making year-end awards happen is awe-inspiring. So want to know a little bit more about the wonder woman of the MDA board? Here you go!

**AM:** *Tell us about your background in horses.*

As a youngster, I always loved and dreamed of having my own horse. On a family vacation when I was 9, a group of the kids at the resort, me included, went to a riding stable. They were short one horse and being the littlest, I was put on with a teenager in the group, and off we went. When we were going through the woods, the horse spooked and ran away and I somehow literally ended up in a tree. My father informed me, "If I was going to get on every darn nag I ran across, I was going to learn how to stay alive."

Shortly after that I started taking Saturday lessons at "The Flint Riding Club", which was predominately over fences. Although Chuck and Carole Grant were also at the FRC at that time. On Saturdays "Lesson" day, the other girls in my lesson group and I would pack sack lunches and when our lesson was done we would sit in the observation room, eat and watch all the other lessons until my Father got out of work, usually in a couple of hours to pick us up.

One day Mr. Grant came in the observation room and asked "Which of us ladies would be willing to help him with one of his horses?" I jumped at that chance. Out to the arena we went and he put me up on this horse he had been riding. His instructions were, "Hold the reins here. Don't let them slip and at the same time hold on to the

saddle with both hands. I am going to be right here beside you so don't worry. The horse is going to bounce, just sit there and smile." As a 10 year old I didn't realize he was working on piaffe/passage on the ground. I continued taking over fences lessons from different instructors there until they closed five years later.

After taking a horse break through high school and college, I began riding again in a lesson program. Now with a job, I bought my first horse and made the transition from over fences to dressage. I was finding that the ground was getting harder and who would pay the bills if I got hurt. Changing to dressage is something I have never regretted.

For the last 40 years, my husband and I have had a small training, boarding and lesson business in the Owosso area. I am also Michigan 4-H judges specializing in jumping and dressage. Currently, we are in the process of downsizing. We are building a new home on 2.5 acres and the farm will be for sale. The one horse that I own will be boarded at a lovely farm not far from the new house and I will actually have time to ride regularly and get in some training session for myself. I will become a traveling instructor with a barn close by that I can work out of and will also keep my judge's card.

**AM:** *What inspired you to run for the MDA board?*

It wasn't an inspiration but a strong suggestion from other, now past, board members. Being newly retired from teaching high school special education, I decided to give it a go. I have never regretted it.

**AM:** *What are some of the changes that you have seen in your time on the board?*

The first BOD (board of directors), I came into was made up of very strong women who had been in the organization for many years. They often felt unsupported by the general membership so through the years did everything themselves.

Now there has been a dramatic change in the BOD philosophy. MDA is much more member friendly, and willing to do what is best for membership. The BOD realizes that our membership is changing as well as the times and we have to stay consistent but liquid at the same time. What is the old phrase, "Go with the flow". We love to interact with the membership. New programs have been started, rules have been clarified, a few new rules added, and some programs have been dropped.

**AM:** *What are some of the things that you would like to see happening in the MDA in the future?*

We need to continue to support our all aspects of our

membership. This sounds like what the Board has been doing but it needs to continue and we need membership to take advantage of the opportunities offered to them. For the junior and young riders who are the future. The more education they have an opportunity to be participate in the better for all parts of the industry. The Adult Amateurs are the financial strength of the organization because they are the largest membership group. They are supporters of the clinics and shows. They continue to request more education as well but we have to continue to be financially responsible for them. We need to keep in mind that these are hard-working career people. Their horses might be recreational, stress relievers from job and family, and usually are the love of their lives. They work just as hard as any of the other levels of riders. The professionals - what can be said about a group that works endless hours to train horses, educate riders of all ages, abilities and levels, deal owners, etc., and never punch a time clock. But with so many full days, they want to find time to continue their education as well. How often do they say, "I would love to ride with this of that publicized professional?" Why don't we not have more professionals utilizing the Professional Grant Program? For a minimal amount of restrictions, volunteer hours, and a little paperwork, they

have access to free money. One would think the BOD would have applications piled high. I don't understand. Who doesn't need or want \$500 free money?

**AM:** *What is your favorite part of being on the board?*

There are many aspect of the board I enjoy. One important aspect is learning from and interacting with other board members and the MDA membership. I also enjoy working on projects that have a chance to impact our members. But the best is seeing an organization grow and change for the better as our membership also grows and becomes better.

So many changes from when I first became involved as a member of the old "Flint Dressage Schooling Club."

## **Midwest Dressage Association Professionals Grant Program**

This grant program has been established to assist those who are professional members of the Midwest Dressage Association to further their education in the following areas: Teaching, Training, and Judging.

The MDA Board of Directors shall set aside from the general fund the sum of \$1,500.00 (the grants of \$500 each) at the beginning of each calendar year. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

-A minimum of two consecutive years of membership (in good standing) with the Midwest Dressage Association.

-Four hours of volunteer time documented with the MDA within the 12 months preceding the filing of a grant supplication.

-A letter of recommendation from one student

-A letter of recommendation from a professional horseperson (trainer, judge or instructor)

Approved educational opportunities would include the following:

All clinics, seminars, and educational programs offered and/or sponsored by the Midwest Dressage Association, the United States Dressage Federation, and/or the United States Equestrian Federation. These educational opportunities will be brought to the MDA Board

of Directors on a case by case basis.

The maximum grant to be awarded to any one person shall be limited to \$500.00.

The board may approve any grant request for less than the requested amount. No one person shall receive more than one grant per calendar year.

Should said recipient fail to attend the specified event all grant money is to be refunded to the Midwest Dressage Association within 30 days after the date of specified event. Terms and conditions are subject to change on an annual basis.

No sitting member of the Board of Directors of the Midwest Dressage Association is eligible for these grants.

# Midwest Dressage Professional Grant Work Sheet Application

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## A letter of Recommendation from Student

Students contact information Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

## A letter of recommendation from a professional Horseperson (Trainer- Instructor or Judge)

Sponsors Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the educational event. How does this event help you achieve your riding goals?

---

---

---

---

•All requests should be filed 60 days prior to the event date, to ensure the MDA Board has time to review requests. Thank you.

Please Mail completed worksheets/requests to:

Will Davis II

9518 Brookway Ct.

Goodrich, MI 48438

Contact # 810 287 2011

## 2017 MDA Board and Committees

### **President**

Will Davis II

*willdavis@aol.com*

### **Vice President**

Lisa Machala

*MichiganEquineTherapy@gmail.com*

### **Secretary**

Nancy Bryant

*nancyclair0924@gmail.com*

### **Treasurer**

Pam Morrison

*info@equinebookkeeping.com*

### **Board Members**

Allison McKenzie

*fgfsporthorses@yahoo.com*

Denise Gentile

*dar-den@comcast.net*

Karen Suit

*karenofsandhill@yahoo.com*

Tonya Grant

*Tonyagrants@visualequestrian.com*

Debbie Hannaford

*debbietimko@yahoo.com*

Beth Schaub

*beschraub@frontier.com*

Shawn Ragsdale

*shawnragsdale@comcast.net*

### **Committees**

**Awards** – Beth Schaub

**Membership** – Nancy Bryant

**Education** – Debbie Hannaford

**Banquet** – Denise Gentile

**Newsletter** – Allison McKenzie

**Historian** – Will Davis

**Directory** – Lisa Machala

**Social Media/Website** – Lisa Machala

**Volunteers** – Shawn Ragsdale

**Marketing** – vacant

**Nominations** – Shawn Ragsdale

**Merchandise** – Tonya Grant

**Professional Advisor** – Shawn Ragsdale

# Classified Ads

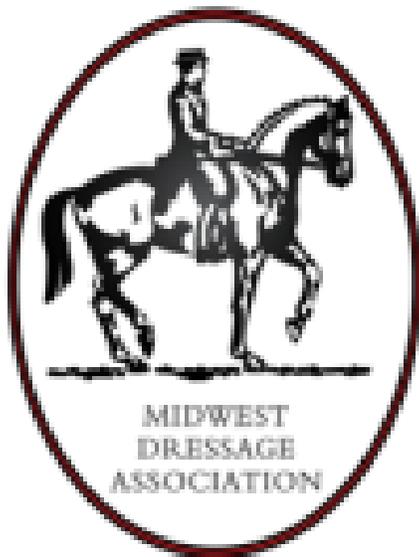
Classified Ads must be submitted to the newsletter editor via email to [fgfsporhorses@yahoo.com](mailto:fgfsporhorses@yahoo.com) and in Word format. Pictures and graphics must be in JPEG format. Deadline for advertising and classified ads is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. All ads must be prepaid prior to publication. All member rates reflect a 20% discount of retail price.

1 month                      3 month                      6 month                      12 month

	Retail	Member	Retail	Member	Retail	Member	Retail	Member
¼ page	40.00	32.00	90.00	72.00	150.00	120.00	240.00	192.00

	Retail	Member	Retail	Member	Retail	Member	Retail	Member
½ page	60.00	48.00	120.00	96.00	210.00	168.00	360.00	288.00

	Retail	Member	Retail	Member	Retail	Member	Retail	Member
Full page	90.00	72.00	150.00	120.00	390.00	312.00	660.00	528.00



**The Midwest Dressage Association is a  
501(c)3 not-for-profit**



## **MDA Members Only Dressage Boot Camp**

**April 22&23, 2017**

**Rattlewood Farm, Oxford MI**

*A weekend packed with all things  
Dressage!*

Midwest Dressage Association is very pleased to offer this fun and educational weekend in conjunction with professional trainers, instructors and business owners who are donating their time and knowledge to help you reach your goals!

### Example Topics:

- Correct Rider Position
- Everything Lateral
- Mind-Body-Spirit
- Ask the Vet
- Correct Lunging
- Am I insured? Do I need it?
- Improving My Test Scores

Arrive Friday evening to settle in and get your schedule. Saturday and Sunday participants will be working in groups of two or four in mounted and unmounted sessions. Cost includes all sessions, lunch both days and stabling. Pre-registration is required. Forms may be found on the MDA website. Closing date is April 1, 2017. Cost is \$100 per person for this two day event.

\*Limited RV hook ups are available for \$30.00 per night.

Visit [www.midwestdressage.org](http://www.midwestdressage.org) to download forms.

This clinic is open to Adult Amateurs, Junior/Young Riders and Professionals, but you must be an MDA member!

The Midwest Dressage Association &



Are joining together in a Partners Program

The Midwest Dressage is participating in the fund raising program developed by Tribute Feeds. To get involved collect Tribute proofs of purchase from Tribute feed bags and mail them to us. We will receive:

- \$.25 for each bag proof of purchase
- \$10 for each ton of bulk feed purchased



Please forward your Tribute Horse Feed proof of purchase (off of the bags) or photocopies of invoices for bulk Tribute purchases. If you are submitting photocopied invoices, please black out any sensitive information like name, phone, and credit card info.

Submit proof of purchase tags to:

Midwest Dressage Association  
C/O Michigan Equine Therapy  
29193 Northwestern Hwy #540  
Southfield MI 48034

MDA, NEWS AND VIEWS

To find a dealer near you, visit the “Dealer Locator” on our website!

**TRIBUTE**<sup>®</sup>  
EQUINE NUTRITION

TributeEquineNutrition.com 800-472-9507



Like Tribute Equine Nutrition on Facebook  
@TributeEquine on Twitter

Tribute Equine Nutrition Channel on You Tube

## Stephanie Jensen wins with Tribute

