MIDWEST DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
PROMOTE – ENCOURAGE – EDUCATE
WWW.MIDWESTDRESSAGE.ORG

## *February 2019*
## *Editor's Notes…*

I know that there is an end in sight to this ridiculous winter – I've been told so. I have friends that keep countdowns on their social media pages and I check them every day looking for a small glimmer of hope. My horses are starting to shed but it is only tentative, like they too don't trust Mother Nature anymore and are keeping themselves on guard in case she decides to lash out for no apparent reason. I stare at the confines of my indoor arena as I ride and teach and wonder if I'll ever be able to escape. I've gone as far as to name some of the birds that have taken refuge in the indoor and I'm now in the process of turning a small hold at the bottom of one of my kickboards into a Fairy Door – seriously.

But there is a more pleasant effect of the long hours stuck inside. I'm not in a hurry – I literally have no place to be as there are no shows to worry about. I take my time running brushes over my horses' fuzzy coats and tails. I chatter endlessly to them about life and current events (though we avoid discussing politics – too divisive.) I pay closer attention to the details – the flicks of an ear, a tail swish and the way my horses' nicker. And when I ride, I make sure that I do my homework thoroughly. The slower pace is almost a nice compromise to make with Mother Nature – almost. One of the many opportunities that sometimes get overlooked is the chance to participate in or audit clinics. I always tell my students that in general, the good instructors say pretty much the same things but the challenge is learning to say it in multiple ways until you find a word, thought, or expression, that works for the rider. Clinics are great for that. Not only does the rider have the opportunity to hear something phrased in a different way, but instructors also can observe how other trainers teach. Let's face it, sometimes during show season we get caught up trying to fix things quick before the next show. Winter provides us the chance to make sure all of our basics are solid and we're not relying on "quick fixes." Even by taking the time to watch training sessions online or having your own ride recorded are great ways to improve your basic riding skills.

Sometimes when we're going through the winter doldrums I am reminded of the popular Canadian comedy "The Red Green Show" in which Red Green humorously navigates through marriage all while trying to be in his words "handy." While horse people can usually find a way to fix most everything with duct tape and baling twine, there are no quick fixes in Dressage and taking the winter months to thoroughly fix ourselves and improve our horses is worth the effort. And at the end of the day when you're attempting to thaw your fingers and toes and contemplating moving south, think about what Red Green always said "Remember, I'm pulling for you. We're all in this together."

-Allison

# Midwest Dressage Association
# Board of Directors

**Nancy Bryant, President**

**Nancyclair0924@gmail.com**

**Allison McKenzie, Vice President**

**amsporthorses@yahoo.com**

**Cheryl Figures, Treasurer**

**C.figs2001@yahoo.com**

**Milanna Jones, Secretary**

**lannamk223@gmail.com**

**Will Davis, Professional Advisory**

**WillDavisi@aol.com**

**Beth Schaub, Awards**

**beschaub.701@gmail.com**

**Pam Morrison, Product Sales**

**info@equinebookkeeping.com**

**Linden Thompson, Marketing**

**linden.j.thompson@gmail.com**

**Alexis Levitt, Webmaster**

**Jarlev7@msn.com**

**Jean Coleman-Henderson**

**eponajc@aol.com**

**Tonya Grant**

**tonyagrant@visualequestrian.com**

**Kathy Monaghan**

**kathmon900@aol.com**

## *Letter From the President…*

While winter has kept us in a proverbial rollercoaster of weather, the MDA has been very focused and working hard to get programs out to our members. The MDA would like to welcome Tonya Grant and Kathy Monaghan to fill two vacancies on the board. Tonya and Kathy will bring additional support to the MDA's 50 Year Anniversary plans.

The rescheduled Goal Setting Workshop with Mental Performance coach Lindy Thompson, M.Sc. has been rescheduled to Sunday March 3rd at the Comeback Inn, Highland, Michigan. The March Board of Director meeting will follow at 2pm.

The MDA will again have a booth at the Michigan Stallion Expo, Friday March 8th through Sunday March 10th, stop by and say hello and check out the MDA product sale items.

The new 2019 USDF Test Riding Symposium, with Lois Yukins will be held on Saturday March 16th at Topline Dressage in Clarkston, Michigan. Registration is at 8:30 and snacks and lunch are included. REGISTRATION CLOSES March 3rd - NO EXCEPTIONS. (Contact cfigs_mda@yahoo.com to register)

The 2019 MDA Boot Camp is in the works for the weekend of May 11 & 12 at Rattlewood Farm in Oxford, Mi. A new format is in the works so stay tuned for updates and application submission dates on the MDA Facebook page and website.

The Instructors Certification conference call was attended by 14 interested parties to fill 6 positions which was a great response. The USDF Instructor Certification Program for 2020 appears to be a go. We are finalizing the perfect facility to host all 5 sessions. Information and application deadlines will be shared on the MDA Facebook page as well as the website as soon as we have it.

Further informal educational opportunities will continue throughout the year. Watch our newsletter, website and Facebook page for updates. In the meantime, enjoy your horses, friends and family, not specifically in that order.

Stay Well,
Nancy

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Charter
GROUP
MEMBER
ORGANIZATION
USDF

# USDF's Influence on My Life: *Perspectives from one of the USDF's best-known members*

***By Maryal Barnett***

Lowell Boomer, the late USDF founder, once told me that his vision for the organization was to serve and educate riders, instructor/ trainers, and judges. Little did I realize at the time that I would end up fitting into each of those broad categories. In the mid-1970s, as an adult-amateur rider, I traveled to Cleveland with my husband, Charlie, to attend what would be the first of many USDF conventions. It was a raucous event, with many passionate Board of Governors delegates making important decisions for the future of dressage. Charlie and I were hooked. From then on, one or both of us attended all but one USDF convention. Charlie enjoyed the political aspect, while I was more interested in the educational offerings. If only one of us could attend, the one who had the opportunity to go would come home and tell the other all that went on.

*A LIFETIME OF GIVING: Receiving the USDF Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 from then USDF Historical Recognition Committee chair Anne Moss (left) and USDF president George Williams (right)*

Early on, my main interest in the USDF was as a rider. The USDF provided me with educational events that fulfilled my desire and need to improve my skills. After all, if I was ever going to win any USDF awards, I certainly needed to improve. The awards system was the carrot for me at that time. I was struggling as a dressage professional when Charlie came home in 1979 with the news that there was going to be an opportunity for me to educate myself as an instructor: the USDF-sponsored Violet Hopkins Seminar for Dressage Instructors. I immediately sent in my application and was accepted. It was at the Hopkins seminars—first with Col. Aage Sommer, and later with Maj. Anders Lindgren—that I realized what I didn't know about dressage. There was so much to learn.

I attended those annual instructor seminars from their inception until they morphed into the USDF National Dressage Symposiums. They taught me not only what to teach, but also how to teach. The program gave me the background I needed to go on to conduct USDF Regional Workshops and later to be accepted as a faculty member and examiner for the USDF Instructor Certification Program. During this time, I was also learning to be a dressage judge through the American Horse Shows Association (now US Equestrian). The AHSA program, which was in its infancy, required some classroom education, as well as apprenticing with and being evaluated by senior judges—helpful steps, but not really enough. Much of a dressage judge's education at the time came from trial and error, and prospective judges were largely on their own. Some farsighted USDF members saw the need for a more comprehensive program to better prepare our judges, and the USDF "L" Education Program was born. This program for training dressage judges is now the most respected in the world. Shortly after the "L" program's establishment, I was accepted as a member of the faculty. What an honor and responsibility! Serving on the faculty of the USDF Instructor/Trainer and "L" Programs has been so very special to me. Both programs have enabled

me not only to teach, but also to continue to learn. Much thanks to the USDF for making it possible for me and so many others. Our founder, Lowell Boomer, would be very proud of the progress that has been made in the fulfillment of his vision.

*-In 2014, Maryal Barnett, of Holt, Michigan, received the USDF Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her many extraordinary volunteer contributions. Besides her extensive USDF involvement, she also chairs The Dressage Foundation's Board of Directors.*

*(This article was originally published in the November 2018 issue of USDF Connection)*

# Don't Forget!!!

**The USDF Test Riding Clinic with Lois Yukins is Saturday March 16 at 9:00am at Topline Dressage**

**5361 Clarkston Rd, Clarkston, Michigan 48348**

$25 for MDA members, $40 for non-members. Advanced sales only – payment MUST BE RECEIVED BY SATURDAY MARCH 2 – NO EXCEPTIONS. Lunch included. Paypal payments accepted vis mda.dressageorg@gmail.com or mail credit card or check payment to MDA c/o Cheryl Figures, 8714 Brookville Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Contact: cfigs_mda@yahoo.com

USDF Youth Education Opportunities

*something for everyone*

# USDF Region 2 Presents

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**Jr/YR Clinic**
*featuring*
**ANNE GRIBBONS**

**Jr/YR Clinic Rider Deadline:**
**March 1**

**Youth Outreach Clinic**
*featuring*
**ROSALIND KINSTLER**

**Outreach Clinic Rider Deadline:**
**March 8**

**Saturday, April 13, 2019**
**Sunday, April 14, 2019**
**8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**<u>Majestic Farm</u>**
**Batavia, OH**

**Auditors of all ages are welcome.**
**All auditing will be at the Jr/YR Clinic**

**Auditor pre-registration ends on March 29, 2019.**

**Walk-in registration will also be available on-site.**

# ***2019 Calender***

**February**

**23 – Brilliant Reflection Farm Dressage Schooling Show**. Brilliant Reflection Farm, Ortonville, MI. Contact Barb Reis (248) 670-9031 or blondmane@yahoo.com

**23**- Glass-Ed sponsored educational opportunity for licensed judges and those enrolled in the USDF L Education Program. "Upgrading Your Judging Eye." 9:00am – 5:00pm. Albion College Ludington Center., 101 S. Superior St. Albion, MI. Contact Tracy Fox at tracyfox.1980@yahoo.com

**March**

**3** – **MDA Board of Directors meeting**. 2:00pm. Comeback Inn, Milford, MI. Please contact a board member if you are interested in attending.

**8-10** – **Michigan State University Stallion Expo**. Michigan State University Agriculture Pavilion. 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing, MI 48910. Contact Will Davis at WillDavisi@aol.com

**16** – **MDA Test Riding Clinic with Lois Yukins**. Topline Farm. 6126 Pheasant Ridge Dr, Fowlerville, MI 48836. www.midwestdressage.org

**23**- **Willowbrooke Farm Dressage Schooling Show at Willowbrooke Farm**. 7461 Brookville Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. www.willowbrooke-farm.com

**30 – Brilliant Reflection Farm Dressage Schooling Show**. Brilliant Reflection Farm, Ortonville, MI. Contact Barb Reis (248) 670-9031 or blondmane@yahoo.com

**April**

**7** – **MDA Board of Directors meeting**. 2:00. Location to be determined.

**13** – **Willowbrooke Farm Dressage Schooling Show at Willowbrooke Farm**. 7461 Brookville Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. www.willowbrooke-farm.com

**20/21** – **Dressage at Albion College**. Nancy G. Held Equestrian Center. Albion College, Albion, MI. www.horseshowoffice.com

**27 – Brilliant Reflection Farm Dressage Schooling Show**. Brilliant Reflection Farm, Ortonville, MI. Contact Barb Reis (248) 670-9031 or blondmane@yahoo.com

**28** – **Woodbine Dressage at Woodbine Farm**. 9976 Liberty Road, Chelsea, MI 48118. www.woodbinefarms.com

**May**

**11/12** – **MDA Bootcamp**. Rattlewood Farm. 1935 Ray Road, Oxford, MI 48371. www.midwestdressage.org

**11** – **Summer Dressage Schooling Show at Wyn Farm**. 3100 Noble Road. Williamston, MI 48895. www.wynfarm.com

**18/19** – **Mid-Michigan Dressage Schooling Show 1 and 2 at Rattlewood Farms**. 1935 Ray Road, Oxford, MI 48371. http://midmichigandressage.webs.com/

**19** – **Woodbine Dressage at Woodbine Farm**. 9976 Liberty Road, Chelsea, MI 48118. www.woodbinefarms.com

**31- June 2** – **Dressage at Waterloo**. Waterloo Hunt Club. 11500 Glenn Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240. www.horseshowoffice.com

**June**

**8/9** – **Mid-Michigan Dressage Schooling Shows 3 and 4 at Rattlewood Farms**. 1935 Ray Road, Oxford, MI 48371. http://midmichigandressage.webs.com/

**8** – **Summer Dressage Schooling Show at Wyn Farm**. 3100 Noble Road, Williamston, MI 48895. www.wynfarm.com

**9** – **Woodbine Dressage at Woodbine Farm**. 9976 Liberty Road, Chelsea, MI 48118. www.woodbinefarms.com

**14-16** – **Dressage at Waterloo at Waterloo Hunt Club**. 11500 Glenn Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240. www.horseshowoffice.com

**July**

**7** – **Woodbine Dressage at Woodbine Farm**. 9976 Liberty Road, Chelsea, MI 48118. www.woodbinefarms.com

**13** – **Wyn Farm Summer Dressage Schooling Show at Wyn Farm**. 3100 Noble Road, Williamston, MI 48895. www.wynfarm.com

**12-14** - **Dressage at Waterloo at Waterloo Hunt Club**. 11500 Glenn Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240. www.horseshowoffice.com

**20/21** – **Mid-Michigan Dressage Schooling Shows 5 and 6 at Rattlewood Farms**. 1935 Ray Road, Oxford, MI 48371. http://midmichigandressage.webs.com/

**27/28** – **Michigan Summer Dressage at Wyn Farm**. 3100 Noble Road, Williamston, MI 48895. www.horseshowoffice.com

**August**

**2-4** – **Dressage at Waterloo at Waterloo Hunt Club**. 11500 Glenn Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240. www.horseshowoffice.com

**10/11 Mid-Michigan Dressage Schooling Shows 7 and 8 at Rattlewood Farms**. 1935 Ray Road, Oxford, MI 48371. http://midmichigandressage.webs.com/

**10** – **Wyn Farm Summer Dressage Schooling Show at Wyn Farm**. 3100 Noble Road, Williamston, MI 48895. www.wynfarm.com

**15-18** – **Dressage at Waterloo at Waterloo Hunt Club**. 11500 Glenn Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240. www.horseshowoffice.com

**25** – **Woodbine Dressage at Woodbine Farm**. 9976 Liberty Road, Chelsea, MI 48118. www.woodbinefarms.com

**31-Sept. 1** – **Mid-Michigan Dressage Schooling Shows at Rattlewood Farms**. 1935 Ray Road, Oxford, MI 48371. http://midmichigandressage.webs.com/

**September**

**7** – **Dressage Summer Schooling Show Wyn Farm**. 3100 Noble Road, Williamston, MI 48895. www.wynfarm.com

**11-15** – **USDF Region 2 Regional Championships at Waterloo Hunt Club**. 11500 Glenn Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240. www.horseshowoffice.com

**15** – **Woodbine Dressage at Woodbine Farm**. 9976 Liberty Road, Chelsea, MI 48118. www.woodbinefarms.com

**October**

**November**

**22-23** – **Annual Awards Banquet and Educational Weekend**. Meet and Greet, Guest Speakers, and 50th Anniversary Award Banquet Celebration. Black Tie Event. Auburn Hill Marriott Hotel, 3600 Centerpoint Pkwy, Pontiac, MI. Contact Will Davis at WillDavisi@aol.com.

Legend:
MDA Recognized Schooling Shows in purple
USDF Recognized Shows in green
MDA Educational Events in yellow

# *The Encore Award*

***This award recognizes the achievements of Off-The-Track Thoroughbreds in the sport of Dressage. This is a year-end high-point award that will be given to an OTTB competing at any level that has achieved the highest overall percentage for the competition season. Owners/Riders must provide a copy of the horses' Jockey Club papers or a picture of a verifiable lip tattoo and three tests ridden under three different judges at any one level from a recognized or schooling show. Rider and/or owner must be a current MDA member. This award is sponsored by Allison McKenzie.***

**Please send the application and paperwork to:**
**Allison McKenzie**
**9867 Sharon Hollow Road**
**Manchester, MI 48158**

Horse Name: _____

Owner/Rider Name: _____

Owner/Rider Address: _____

Owner/Rider Phone: _____

Owner/Rider Email: _____

**Questions? Contact Allison at 734-276-8967 or amsporthorses@yahoo.com**

# Tribute Partners Program

The Tribute Partners Program allows MDA to earn money for educational events. Every proof of purchase tag (found on the bottom of the feedbag) is worth $.25. Invoices for bulk feed are also eligible for this program. In the first year of participation, MDA earned over $500 because members contributed their feed bag tags!

Instructions:
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, credit card info.

Submit proof of purchase tags to:
Midwest Dressage Association
C/O Milanna Jones
284 South Tilden Street
Pontiac, MI 48341
If you have questions about this program, please contact Milanna Jones at 248 534 6415.

# *Classifieds…*

## Horses for Sale or Lease –

Several experienced dressage horses available for partial or full lease at Brilliant Reflection Farm in Ortonville, MI. Contact us for more information at blondmane@yahoo.com or 248-670-9031. http://www.brilliantreflectionfarm.com/horses-available-for-lease.html

## Saddles/Tack For Sale

2014 17” Bruno Delgrange medium tree with silver accents on cantle and flap. Medium flap length. $3000. Please contact Leslie Richardson at (810) 287-0053

## Employment/Working Student

Visual Equestrian Dressage LLC and Tonya Grant have an amazing opportunity open.
We are looking for a dedicated local horse lover who aspires to become a professional someday. We have a full-time working student position currently open.
Must have transportation, riding clothes, and a very good work ethic. Opportunity to show and travel and lots of opportunity to ride. Must be hard-working and willing to do a lot of grooming in exchange for riding. Applications will be accepted by email or phone.
Riding interviews open in April.
Visual Equestrian Dressage LLC - www.visualequestrian.com
Tonya Grant (248) 219-0410

## Stable Listings-

**Allison McKenzie Sporthorses**

Training, Lessons, Breeding, Boarding

Manchester, MI 48158

amsporthorses@yahoo.com

www.allisonmckenziesporthorses.com

734- 276-8967

Lessons, Boarding, Breeding, Sales

**Brilliant Reflection Farm**

Brian and Barbra Reis

Ortonville, MI 48462

248-670-9031

blondmane@yahoo.com

www.brilliantreflectionfarm.com

Lessons, Boarding, Rehab, Schooling Shows

**High Point Farm**

Alison Allen

Oxford, MI

248-410-0684

www.highpointdressage.com

All day turnout and quality feed

Stalls cleaned daily

Lesson plans available

**Deisig Dressage**

Janelle Deisig

Frankenmuth, MI 48734

989-598-6850

Janelledeisig@yahoo.com

www.deisigdressage.com

Dressage training, sales, trailer-in lessons

**Sky High Farm**

Lapeer, MI 48446

248-890-2426

jenmaull@yahoo.com

Boarding, Lessons, Clinics

http://skyhighfarm.vpweb.com

Boarding and Dressage Training Indoor and Outdoor arenas

**The Levy Farm**

Shawn Ozker Ragsdale

Metamora, MI 48455

248-318-0725

Training, Lessons, Clinics

Novice-FEI

**Visual Equestrian LLC**

Carole and Tonya Grant

Fenton, MI 48430

248-219-0410

Dressage Training, Sale Horses and Ponies

Pony Program, Clinics, Trailer-in Lessons

**Will Davis Training Center**

Oxford, MI

810-287-2011

Boarding, Training, Clinics with

International Trainers, Home to Mid-Michigan

Dressage Shows.

**Equestrian Enrichment**

Kim Robbins

Meadowland Farm

Davison, MI

248-830-6523

Training, Clinics, Sale Horses, Trailer-in Lessons

Bronze and Silver Medalist.

Kimrobbinsdressage.com

******In order to have your facility listed in the newsletter, please email Allison at amsporthorses@yahoo.com You MUST be an MDA member to have your facility listed!***