



January 2019

Editor's Notes...

Welcome to 2019! I hope that it proves to be a successful year for everyone and that we are all able to accomplish our horsey goals. New years are fun because it's a chance to wipe the slate clean and embark on our goals with a fresh perspective. A lot of controversy surrounded the end of this past year with regards to the new USDF Freestyle score change and the Safe Sport education mandate. Horse people are not known to be quiet and without opinion so there was much discussion to be had. In light of all of this, I would like to offer some perspective. I listened to an impassioned speech by Debbie McDonald, our new UDSF team coach as she pointed out that because US Dressage has gotten better – and worked its way to the podium in international competition – we need to keep pushing and improving ourselves at the lower levels. I take that challenge personally. I treated it as though she was talking to me (I was at the convention so it wasn't that hard to imagine!) Instead of complaining about the rule change – or rather how the rule change was implemented – we need to treat all of this as a personal challenge to our own riding. What will I need to do to help myself achieve what has been laid out before me? What do I need to do to improve myself and therefore my riding? What trainer or what training program do I need to use? This is the time of year when those are good questions to ask of ourselves. Unfortunately, I also hear many of my fellow riders lamenting the fact that Dressage has become “elitist” and cost prohibitive. Honestly, I don't disagree with some

of that. Frankly, I have fallen into slumps where I start to feel like there is only so far I can go because I can't afford the big fancy warmbloods and expensive clinics. I see people looking at horses that cost upwards of \$15,000 and think to myself “How the Sam Hill can they afford that?” I'll be honest with you – I am a poor barn owner in rural Michigan and my OTTB cost me \$200. My most expensive horse was only a bit more than that and she's not even a fancy warmblood – she's an Arab cross mutt with a nasty attitude! But none of that changes the fact that I love what I do. Most days I enjoy my clients, I love my “track trash” mutt horses and most of all – I love Dressage. And I truly don't believe that Debbie McDonald was talking to only the people that have fancy warmbloods and an unlimited supply of funds. I still believe that she was talking to people like me. I believe that she was speaking to the rider that has to often schedule fleeting moments to ride, has the “blue collar horse,” and has to save up for the saddle that works on a budget. And I don't believe that people like me are excluded because of our limitations, but rather are being pushed harder because we are willing to work harder. At no point have I ever believed that Laura Graves had anything handed to her or that anything was made easy for her, so why should I expect anything to be handed to me? The USDF has challenged me and frankly, I accept the challenge, so now watch me go!

-Allison

Midwest Dressage Association – 2019 - Board of Directors



Nancy Bryant, President
Nancyclair0924@gmail.com



Allison McKenzie, Vice President
amsporhorses@yahoo.com



Cheryl Figures, Treasurer
C.figs2001@yahoo.com



Milanna Jones, Secretary
lannamk223@gmail.com



Will Davis, Professional Advisory
WillDavis@aol.com



Beth Schaub, Awards
beschaub.701@gmail.com



Linden Thompson, Marketing
linden.j.thompson@gmail.com



Alexis Levitt, Webmaster
Jarlev7@msn.com



Jean Coleman-Henderson
eponajc@aol.com

Letter from the President...

(As many of you know, not only were elections held for board members, but elections were also held for new officers for the 2019 Executive Board. Nancy Bryant was elected as the new MDA President, Allison McKenzie was elected as the new Vice-President, Cheryl Figures is the new Treasurer and Milanna Jones is the new Secretary. The following is a message from our new President...)

First and foremost, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday as well as a happy and healthy New Year. As many of you may know this is the Midwest Dressage Association's 50th Anniversary. The MDA was founded in 1969. The MDA Board is very excited and has big plans in the works for this year. All Board of Director's meetings (BOD) are open to all members and we strongly encourage you to attend, especially if you have an interest in a special area, have an idea to run by the board for inclusion in our year-long monthly clinic schedule, or you might have time to help us out by volunteering in an area of special interest. Showing your sense of pride and promoting inclusion in the MDA all while showing your commitment to our organization is what volunteerism is all about.

As much as possible, the MDA is working to make many of our clinics free to members. The first monthly clinic will be held on Saturday January 19th, with Mental Health Coach Lindy Thompsons "Goal Setting Workshop" being held at Full Circle Farm in Holly Michigan. Lindy will discuss building S.M.A.R.T. goals that will create a roadmap for success in your dressage education, training and competition. On Saturday March 16th the MDA is hosting Lois Yukins at Topline Dressage in Clarkston Michigan. Lois will go over the new 2019 USDF Dressage Tests from Intro through Fourth level. You will be able to see live horses moving

through the movements to gain a better eye as to what the judge wants to see. Lois will also discuss areas many judges feel are not ridden to the directives listed on the test and how to better present you and your horse to the judge. USDF CE's will also be available to interested parties.

Other ideas for monthly clinics include a fact-finding mission for those instructors interested in attending an MDA sponsored USDF Instructor Certification Clinic series. We listened to you and have moved the MDA Adult Boot camp later in the year with a new format, classroom clinicians and riding instructors. Other clinics in the works are a Scribing and Volunteering clinic, Farm and Barn Safety, and a First Aid Clinic for rider and horse, as well as an Equine Business seminar which will go over the legal ins and outs of farm ownership.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the MDA Board of Directors for voting me into the position of President. I have served as Vice President for many years and I am looking forward to working with this board and bringing in a successful year of celebration!

All My Best-Nancy



Volunteering – The Gift That Gives ***by Nancy Bryant***

You might be thinking that I'm writing an article about volunteering in regards to the Midwest Dressage Association, but no, I'm going bigger. I'm talking about volunteering at the FEI World Cup Dressage & Jumping Finals in Omaha, Nebraska in 2017 and at the World Equestrian Games held at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, North Carolina in September 2018.

Following my experiences at the World Cup, I made the choice to volunteer for the 2018 WEG mostly because I knew the advantages of volunteering and saw for myself how much "back stage access" you are allowed. These events give you free all-event access, food and parking during the event which saves you money - all you have to do is get there. WEG also provides housing for those volunteering over a period of time, local residents open up their homes, and churches provide blankets and pillows to the hostel-type housing. I met two young, 20-something ladies from Australia who were working a Reining event. I asked them if they did Reining back home and they informed me that they are Event riders and were working the Reining event during an Eventing day off. They planned on staying the entire 3 weeks working multiple disciplines. I would have loved to have been able to do that in my twenties! I'm here to tell you that everyone can volunteer - everyone has skills.



German Isabel Werth won Gold at the World Equestrian Games

The World Cup was different from the WEG in that the organizers assigned your positions. Key ideal volunteer positions, in my opinion, were filled far in advance including scribing for the Dressage events. I can imagine it would be exhilarating and scary all at the same time to scribe at that event. I did notice that some scribes were actual judges or "professional scribes" which I didn't realize even existed. My assigned duties at the World Cup were to spend time with local school children in the "kid's zone," an interactive educational area specially created for the kids. I also assisted in the stabling area checking in and out horses and riders from the schooling arena. Believe me, this is a serious position and you even work under a FEI Veterinarian. Shopping was wonderful and much like events in Europe, the schooling arena was essentially in the middle of the vendor and food court so you could sit and eat your lunch, have a beer or shop and rub shoulders with the likes of Steffen Peters, George Morris, Edward Gal and even "Big Bang Theory's" Kaley Cuoco, who is an avid equestrian.



The volunteer tent

Years in advance of the WEG, committees are put together by the hosts. Social and local media is abundant with requests for volunteers.

I answered a Facebook post to volunteer at WEG and was put in touch with the volunteer lead. Volunteers for WEG were put through an FBI clearance and the application was similar to my passport filing. The TIEC also has a Facebook page and I'm sure it added to the volunteer base of over 5000 volunteers over the 20 days the events took place. I drove to both Omaha, Nebraska and to the WEG in South Carolina to save money and to have a vehicle while there. WEG had numerous training events held in advance for local volunteers and for those traveling in early. The first rule of volunteering is to BE FLEXIBLE!!! Those of us arriving the day before or on the first day of volunteering found it to be "trial by fire." Day to day it was "OK folks, you may have signed up for this, but this is what you're going to do today" atmosphere which in hind sight was fun, but at the time my organizational OCD skills were screaming "You people need to get it together." There was a bit of grumbling about lack of transportation from the Volunteer headquarters to the TIEC site, not enough sandwiches at lunch, etc. but it all worked out in the end. Believe me, at the WEG there were lots of options to choose from for volunteering, from VIP golf cart driver to washroom attendant, fence judges, fence scribes, ring attendants, flower/arena design, grooms for the rescued mascot's, Huck and Finn, media volunteers, herding the athletes to the media interviews, maintaining order in the bleacher/viewing areas, to drug screening chaperone (yes they drug test the humans as well as the horses.)



WEG mascots, Huck and Finn

I chose arena design, mascot groom and spectator surveys and while I will say they all sounded interesting, I didn't for various reasons get to do any of those things. This is when being flexible and versatile when you are a volunteer at such a function comes into play.



American Phillip Dutton on the cross-country course at WEG.

My assignment for arena design was canceled because the arena was set up the night before, the rescued mascots were moved off-site due to the impending hurricane, and I guess they didn't realize all the masses would need to have internet web access, so when we feverishly attempted to load the survey program on the iPads so we could interview spectators, the iPads froze. Being a person who thinks on their feet for a living, I wrote down the answers to the short 5 question survey with plans to transcribe them over to the computers once we had a decent signal. People actually didn't mind taking a minute of their time to answer a few questions, especially when their names were placed in a drawing for a one-year subscription to FEI TV! When not "working" volunteers had a 100 x 200 volunteer tent which held free fruit, snacks and beverages. If you were working on any specific day you were given a lunch voucher. Inside the tent was an area named "Katherine's Paddock" where, if you were available to help out "wherever", your name and cell number were taken and you were placed "on call". While waiting for your call to duty, you had a great view of the Alltech Arena which held the Dressage events.



American Laura Graves wins silver at WEG on her horse, Verdades.

Shopping was copious and varied. Volunteers were given discounts at many of the vendors shops. The usual Land Rover Test driving course was set up on the 100 ft. section of mountain, carved away for the TIEC. It was up and running and even though I seriously wanted to test drive it, I did not want to go only 5 MPH around the course. And if you liked and missed riding your own horse, you could schedule a lesson on the mechanical horse for a price.

I tried to attend a little bit of everything even if it was not “my thing”. It was fun and interesting to walk the entire cross-country course, imagining myself and my thoroughbred from years ago making our way over a miniature version of the beautifully designed obstacles. I logged in 12 miles on my Fit Bit that day. My last day on site was spent watching the cross-country and I moved around the course to see riders make their way over the course. One of the most heart-warming was watching Ingrid Klimke riding the course with a stuffed animal strapped to her back. The stuffed animal held significance in that it was given to Ingrid by a “Make a Wish” child who wanted to be there in spirit. I watched as back at the finish line the

“teams” saw to their horses and riders as they came across the finish line. It was a beautiful show of team work and care of the animals.

So, I guess my next step in my volunteering journey is the Olympics! Believe me, the planning has already begun!!



Queens of the Sandbox: Isabel Werth, Laura Graves and Charlotte Dujardin took the top three spots in Dressage at WEG.

2019 Calender

January

19 – Goal Setting Workshop with Linden Thompson. 1:00pm-2:30pm at Full Circle Farm. 5180 Grange Hall Road, Holly, MI 48442. www.midwestdressage.org.

February

3 – USDF Instructor Certification Workshop Information Gathering Session. 12:00pm. Atlas Reality 8491 South State Road (M-15), Goodrich, MI. Contact Nancy Bryant for details 248-632-2045 or email nancyclair0924@gmail.com

3 – MDA Board of Directors meeting. 2:00pm at Atlas Reality 8491 South State Road (M-15), Goodrich, MI. Contact Nancy Bryant at 248-632-2045 or email nancyclair0924@gmail.com.

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

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. Location to be determined.

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

16 – Test Riding Clinic with Lois Yukins at 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

April

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

11/12 – Summer Dressage Schooling Show I & II 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/>

8/9 – Summer Dressage Schooling Show III and IV 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

13/14 – Wyn Farm Summer Dressage Schooling Show V & VI 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/>

10/11 – Wyn Farm Summer Dressage Schooling Show VII & VIII 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

7/8 – Dressage Summer Schooling Show IX & X at 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. Contact Will Davis at WillDavis@aol.com.

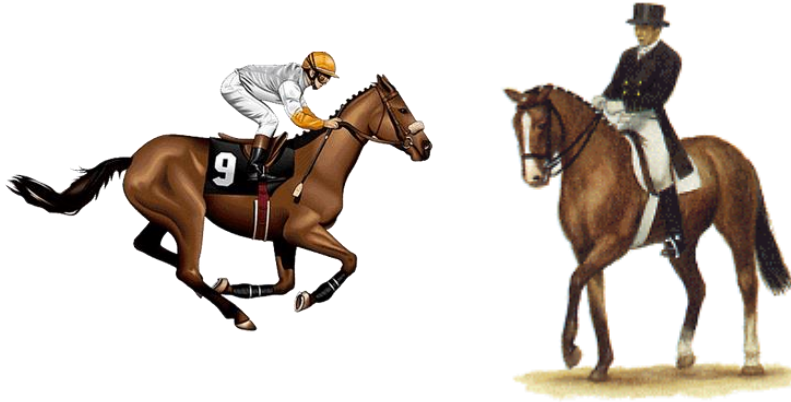
Legend:

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

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.allisonmckenzie'sporthorses.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

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!***

