



Midwest Dressage Association

October 2023 Newsletter

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The President's Paragraphs



The 2023 MDA Competition Season is complete. Congratulations to all the members who competed at USDF Recognized Shows and MDA Participating Shows. We look forward to celebrating everyone who showed, volunteered, organized and otherwise supported dressage at the annual MDA Awards Luncheon on November 19. Details on purchasing tickets for this year's event are included in this Newsletter, as well as on the MDA website (www.midwestdressage.org) and on the MDA Facebook page.

On the agenda for the banquet will be the annual election of new members for the MDA Board of Directors. There will be at least three directors retiring this year, making room for new candidates. We welcome any member who'd like to help the MDA to navigate the next few years. Whether your passion is dressage education, competition, or expanding our community of like-minded equestrians, we need your vision, ideas and energy! Please contact me if you'd like to discuss what a place on the MDA Board of Directors entails.

Best Regards,

Holly Zecchin
President
Midwest Dressage Association

Upcoming Events

MDA Awards Luncheon

The MDA Awards Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, November 19 at 12 p.m. at the Crystal Gardens Banquet Center in Howell, MI. Tickets are \$38 and [can be purchased online](#).

We will have a Silent Auction of Unique Gift Items and Barn Baskets during the luncheon to benefit the MDA Annual Awards program. If you'd like to contribute an

item or basket to the auction, please contact Mykal Roth at Mykal@midwestdressage.org.

USDF Virtual Education Series Event

The Purpose of the Movements

Presented by Sarah Geike and Bill McMullin; Tuesday, Oct 24th at 8:00 PM ET

Sarah and Bill will discuss the “Why” of dressage movements from the perspective of both judge and trainer. For more information and to register please visit

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0C-YI2zjRLKRdkjxuiBsZQ#/registration

Your confirmation email will contain your Zoom invitation.

Year End Awards Qualifications

MDA members are eligible to earn year-end awards for Schooling Shows, Para-Equestrian, Western Dressage, and Recognized shows. Below are helpful reminders about qualification requirements. It’s your responsibility to [read the MDA Redbook](#) for complete details about these year-end award programs including all qualification requirements, eligibility, tests, minimum percentage score requirements and complete rules.

Key Points about Year End Awards

- Scores must be from one (1) horse/rider combination.
- Show scores must be (mandatory for ALL divisions):
 - from three different judges
 - from three different shows
 - on three different dates
 - For Schooling Shows-Traditional Dressage, Schooling Shows-Western Dressage, and Recognized-Traditional Dressage show scores, one (1) of the scores must be from the highest test of the level shown (ex: Training 3, WD Intro Level Test 4, etc.)

Qualified Riders List as of October 20, 2023 is available on our website:

<https://www.midwestdressage.org/qualified-riders.html>

Confirming Results from MDA Participating Schooling Shows

If you would like to confirm that all your schooling show results have been recorded, and which three scores will be used to compute your year end average, please contact Holly Zecchin by email. (holly@midwestdressage.org)

MDA Merchandise Now Available!

Did you know you can now buy MDA logo merchandise directly from the source? Shirts, fleeces, jackets anyone? Show your MDA spirit with pride:

https://stores.inksoft.com/midwest_dressage_association/shop/home

Book Review

Horse

A novel by Geraldine Brooks. Copyright 2022

Published by VIKING, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC

I often read fictional books involving horse related storylines with misgivings. The awkward and ill-informed wording and scenes portraying horses and their world is distracting. Geraldine Brooks book, Horse, is a welcome exception. I thoroughly enjoyed this novel and the fascinating perspectives of the characters. The author's approach is fairly complicated with multiple, intertwined storylines spanning 150 years of American history between 1880 and 2019. But the result is a superbly entertaining, well researched mystery that begins when the modern protagonists, Theo and Jess, discover Lexington's preserved skeleton stored in a museum attic and antique paintings of a beautiful, chestnut stallion and his unknown groom. Theo and Jess piece together the story of the famed stallion and his faithful young trainer, Jarrett, while navigating their own interracial relationship in a modern world. I would recommend Horse to anyone, but for those who love horses, Geraldine Brooks' descriptions of Lexington and his races will fill your heart with awe.

About MDA

About

The Midwest Dressage Association (MDA) Inc, founded in 1969, is a charter group member of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF). MDA is an organization whose purpose is to promote and encourage a high standard of accomplishment in dressage in the general area of the midwestern United States, primarily through educational programs. MDA welcomes all horse enthusiasts, whether they ride or not, to be members. We are one of the largest Group Member Organizations (GMOs) in Region 2. We are strictly a volunteer run organization headed by an eleven member Board of Directors. We hold monthly Board meetings which are open to everyone. Our committees, chaired by Board members, welcome all MDA members to participate. Volunteers are a very valuable resource to MDA as it takes a whole stable of workers to ensure that our shows and events remain successful.

Contact Us

[Our Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[MDA Board of Directors and Committees](#)

[Find Us on Facebook](#)

Barn Directory

Aberdeen Farm

3500 7 Mile Road

South Lyon, MI 48178

Contact Donna Donaldson 248-347-4411

www.aberdeenfarm.weebly.com

Lessons and training

Arena rental by the hour indoor and outdoor

MDA and USDF participating schooling shows

Available for clinics

Brek-n-Ridge

Andrew Figures

7359 S Lake Shore Dr,

Harbor Springs, MI 49740

231-242-0012

Boarding, lessons, Clinics, Rehab, Training

Freestyle Farm

Erin Miles

1730 N Oxford rd.

Oxford Mi 48371

248-326-5885

We are a full care boarding facility for dressage riders. We offer lessons, showing (schooling and recognized) and clinics. Our facility offers rolling green pastures, trails, indoor and outdoor arena and oversized stalls. Stalls cleaned and fresh water daily. Grain twice a day, hay fed 3 times a day.

Find us on Facebook and Freestyle Farm

Kathy Card

4364 S. Mackinaw Rd

Bay City, MI 48706

989-239-9363

Boarding, Training for horse and rider, Hunt seat, Jumping, Dressage, Western

Rivendell Stables

Linda Cooper

11555 W Grand River Avenue

Lowell, MI 49331

(616) 897.8976

<http://www.rivendellstable.com>

Boarding Lessons Training

Dressage, Eventing, and Show Jumping

Royal K Riding Center, Kate Westfall

17026 J Drive North,

Marshall, MI 49068

616-706-5049

I offer boarding, lessons and training.

Sue Hughes

8788 Joy Road,

Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

234-604-2439

email prideandjoyfarm@yahoo.com

No Boarding, Trailer in for lessons or will travel to clients. r judge in English Dressage R judge in Western dressage. Enjoys giving clinics from the very beginning through third level English and 5th level Western. Youngster clients 12 year of age. No limit above that.

Classifieds

MDA members may place classified ads in our monthly newsletter. Email info@midwestdressage.org to place an ad.