

## Editor's Notes...

When it comes down to it, we ask a lot of our families and our significant others. When they are getting home from work we are likely heading out to the barn. Dinners are late because we're riding, holiday gatherings are arranged around getting chores done and relaxing vacations happen either before or after show season - or mostly not at all. My husband is my greatest cheerleader and groom (and he's also my farrier, which is quite handy)! Last year was his first full season of being an HSH (Horse Show Husband) and he not only survived but thrived. I sometimes pause during the warm-up at shows and look towards the rail at the long-suffering souls who show up and cheer us on. They are easy to spot – they are the ones that are holding our things despite not knowing what the heck most of it is for, they look tired and often confused and somewhat downtrodden. When "their person" stops on the rail to ask for one last application of fly spray, they hand them a plastic bottle in the hopes that what is in that bottle is actually what was requested. They wipe boots despite the fact that in the back of their minds they're wondering what they did to deserve the honor of wiping dust and manure off of a boot that cost just as much as a car payment. When their person goes into the ring, they dutifully record their ride. When their person dismounts they dutifully give encouraging words despite the fact that are watching that just wiped-off boot trudge through manure - and that manure will most likely end up on the rag that is currently housed in a pocket in their pants. If they're lucky they will be treated to lunch at the food

stand...only to sit down and be summoned to perform their sworn duties for yet another test. So much for that BLT...

For us, our loved ones endure cold, heat, humidity, confusion, and utter boredom. They do so with smiles and determination. They do so despite our complaints that the judge was too hard, the horse was not behaving, and tearful cries of "I forgot my test!" Our families, friends, and significant others are the ultimate weekend warriors and without them we couldn't do what we do. So remember to thank them and next time...let them finish lunch.



"OF COURSE THERE'S NO FOOD IN THE HOUSE, I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO GO SHOPPING!

# ATTENTION SCHOOLING SHOW RIDERS!

Important changes for 2018...

Did you know that this year the Year End Awards committee will be tracking MDA members that participate in "Participating in the Year End Award Program schooling shows throughout the show season? That's right no more collecting scores and filling out those pesky Rider Report Forms for Schooling Shows only! If you are a 2018 MDA member, you will be considered for awards.

What riders need to be aware of to make this process go smoothly:

- Make sure that you have joined or renewed your MDA membership for 2018!
- Check the MDA calendar in the online newsletters for "Participating in the Year End Award Program". These are the only shows that will be counted for awards, i.e. check the listing for Woodbine Dressage Schooling Shows.
- If you have a "favorite" show and they are not listed as a "Participating Show", feel free to encourage them to become one.
- Know your 2018 MDA membership card/number or bring with it with you. You will be asked for this on your entry forms. Use the same name for yourself and for your horse on <u>all</u> of the entry forms.
- Read the rules in the MDA Directory /Red Book. These have NOT changed. Only the reporting process has.

Things to watch for through show season.

 Participating shows will have their results printed in the online newsletter. Double check to make sure that your percentages in those shows are correct. Show managers will be reporting all of

- the riders scores entered in the show IF they are current MDA members.
- If there is a difference in the scores, please immediately contact Beth Schaub, beschaub@frontier.com or Lindy Thompson, linden.j.thompson@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Beth Schaub, Awards Chair or Will Davis.

Easy isn't it! Good luck everyone.



# Don't Forget!!!

The MDA member's only boot camp is April 14-15 at Rattlewood Farms.

# Olympian Isabell Werth's Tips For Taking Young, Developing Dressage Horses Successfully To Grand Prix

by Nancy Bryant, freelance writer, USDF "L" Judge Program Graduate and FEI rider

Five-time Olympian Isabell Werth gave a master class in developing young, under saddle horses correctly through FEI levels during the 2017 FEI World Cup Championships in Omaha, NE, last spring. The class was sort of an abridged symposium with three young, talented horses and their riders: Totem, a 5-year-old Hanoverian stallion ridden by Karen Pavicic, Lucky Strike, a 7-year-old Hanoverian gelding ridden by Endel Ots, and Hellohalli, an 8-year-old Hanoverian mare ridden by Sabine Schut-Kerry.

Werth stated what she looks for in a young horse, with potential to move up to the Grand Prix, is three very good gaits, maybe not "9/10," but still good gaits that show no weaknesses. Also, a good mind, good elasticity and a good work ethic are important traits for successful dressage horses.

Beginning with Totem and Pavicic, Werth encouraged a walk with relaxed over stride and freedom of the shoulder. She stated that when contact with the horse's mouth and body is picked up the horse needs to accept the contact and step into it.

Moving on to the trot Werth said that she looks for nice swing in the horse's way of going and always looks for potential to improve the horizontal frame of the horse. She encouraged the riders to think of keeping their horses moving up hill and under from behind, stating that only then should the rider start to do half halts. She also cautioned the riders to not interrupt the swing or rhythm of the horse by pulling on the inside rein.

Werth said that it is very important for a young horse to find its balance and rhythm in both directions and to find good contact into a steady outside rein. "Always encourage the horse to

chew and seek the contact into the reins," instructed Werth, "Do not drop or throw the reins away."

According to Werth, the shoulder-in is the first important educational exercise to make a young horse supple from behind. She was adamant that the horse should work from the inside leg to the outside rein. "Don't be inflexible with the inside rein. Use the outside rein for connection more than the inside rein. Be very careful not to pull on the inside rein, but be supportive with it," advised Werth. She also stressed that it is very important to maintain an outside rein connection during forward and back exercises. Do this within the movement, and with leg yielding/sideways movements, but without disrupting the rhythm and balance of the horse. Keep the horse straight by riding in shoulder-fore position avoiding interruptions or disruption of the

Canter work starts on a circle using trot-tocanter and canter-to-trot transitions and always starting from behind encouraging "jump" in the canter stride and in a shoulder-fore position advised Werth. She said that if the horse's weight is on an inside shoulder, then he is also using his inside hind leg. She said to keep a big, clearly-defined jump in the canter stride and to begin to collect on a circle being careful not to lose the canter rhythm.

Werth went on to instruct the riders to keep the frame long on the outside rein at the canter. And to work the horse again in a forward and back exercise, being mindful to keep the jump in the canter while also maintaining straightness in the collected work. She told the riders at the end of each training session they should encourage the horse to stretch down over their backs and out to the contact, and not to "drop them" [not to drop the reins and offer no contact or support.]

Moving on to Lucky Strike and Ots, Werth asked the rider to shorten the horse's frame to keep the horse from pushing out behind. She instructed Ots to use bending and collecting

exercises while encouraging the horse to be quicker in his steps and smaller in his frame. She told the rider to use flexion within the shoulder-in work and sideways movements, while always asking for more collected steps to shorten the horse's frame and encourage engagement from behind.

She also encouraged Ots to work to keep the shoulder free while encouraging the horse to gain confidence and obtain a better connection with steadier contact. Again, Werth emphasized when Ots allowed Lucky Strike to take a break that he should not drop the reins, but instead allow the horse to take the reins long for a few minutes while still maintaining some contact. Werth said that the canter work should only start when you have a good walk first. And in the canter to look for a good connection, a good jump in the canter, maintain a shoulder-fore position, and to encourage flexion and elastic connection.

Working on the canter half pass, Werth said it was important to keep the flow, bend and activity, and to straighten the horse before the change. When working with the canter changes, she said that only a good canter can bring on a good change. She advised to keep the connection between the changes and maintain straightness by turning with the outside rein and maintaining the horse's weight on the inside hind leg.

Working with the final pair, Schut-Kerry and Hellohalli, Werth encouraged more self-carriage of the horse, instructing Schut-Kerry to keep her mare's haunches low. In the trot work she advised the rider to use shoulder-in to improve flexion before the half pass. And to start the half pass with more cadence control and flexion, then increase the fluidity and swing as they progressed.

In the canter work Werth wanted to see more uphill collection and jump in the half pass. Again, she advised Schut-Kerry to start with more control, then move forward while maintaining the flexion and jump. Working on the changes, Werth looked for the rider to have

more contact into both reins for straighter changes. Then in the piaffe and passage, Werth asked the rider to work the mare in a shoulder-in for more control and engagement to improve these movements. And she advised that the rider should always keep the horse's hind end more active with quick, little steps.

Overall Werth's master class was a fun, albeit short, introduction as to what she looks for in potential young, developing horses. I agreed and could see with my own eyes everything Werth had to offer and would love to ride with her anytime, anywhere.



Photo # 2: Isabell Werth, who has won 10 Olympic medals and seven World Equestrian Games medals to date, took the 2017 FEI World Cup Dressage Championship in Omaha aboard the Oldenburg mare Weihegold OLD, her 2016 Rio Olympic partner. Photo by Sarah Miller/MacMillan Photography



Photo # 1: Germany's Isabell Werth, a five-time Olympian, conducted a master class called "Young Horses to Grand Prix" presented by the Dressage Foundation at last spring's FEI World Cup Championships in Omaha, Nebraska. It was the first time that Werth had conducted an exhibition of that type in the U.S.A. She is shown here teaching Endel Ots riding the 7-year-old Hanoverian gelding Lucky Strike during the class. Photo by Shelley Higgins/ MacMillan Photography

# Tips for Managing Horses on Spring Pastures

Here are some tips to remember to help your horse stay happy and healthy when consuming this spring's lush pasture.

Reprinted from "The Horse; May 2, 2015.

The arrival of spring brings lush green grass to your pastures. While your horse might be excited to graze, eating too much fresh pasture can lead to serious problems. If you're stressing about letting your horse graze on spring grass, fear not. Here are some tips to keep in mind to help your horse stay happy and healthy this spring.

"There are many ways to help prepare your horse for spring pasture turnout," said Lydia Gray, DVM, MA, staff veterinarian and medical director for SmartPak. "Three of the biggest things you can do to help prepare your horse include managing their grass intake, increasing other sources of forage in their diet, and supplementing for their unique needs."

# **Managing Grass Intake**

While lush grass is beautiful to look at, it can cause numerous health challenges for horses. The first step in helping to prevent potential health problems is to keep your horse from grazing too much too quickly. While it's important to introduce horses to grass slowly—just 10-15 minutes a day at first—many horse owners have also found success throughout the season using a grazing muzzle. A great tool when it comes to weight management for the easy keeper, a grazing muzzle provides a

comfortable way to limit your horse's intake of grass without obstructing his ability to drink, breathe, or socialize.

While wearing a muzzle, your horse can still have fun in the field and you don't have to worry about him gorging on grass.

## **Increasing Other Forage**

"Another method to reduce spring grass consumption is to 'fill your horse's tank' with hay before pasture turnout," said Gray. "Better yet, keep his digestive tract full at all times with (free choice) long-stem forage." Tools such as a small-hole hay net allow restricted access to hay so your horse will slow down and enjoy his food for a longer period of time. A small-hole hay net is also a great option for horses who need their amount of daily hay limited because of problems such as obesity or who need a small, constant supply of roughage because of problems such as gastric lesions or digestive upset.

## **Providing Supplement Support**

Finally, supplemental support could prove beneficial for some horses grazing spring pasture. Too much spring grass can bring concerns for your horse's laminar health. The laminae are the tiny, interlocking "fingers" that attach the coffin bone to the rest of the hoof. If the laminae become inflamed, they may separate and cause serious health concerns. If you're concerned about your horse's laminar health, several companies produce products marketed to support healthy laminae. Or, if your horse is an easy keeper, a supplement designed to support healthy metabolic function, might help your horse stay healthy as the grass fills in. It's recommended to discuss any supplement or feeding changes with your veterinarian or an equine nutritionist prior to implementing the adjustments to ensure your horse's diet remains balance.

# Midwest Dressage Association Presents:

The Rider's Seat Clinic Featuring Tom Nagel of "Zen & Horseback Riding" July 26-27 and July 27-28

Hosted by Visual Equestrian 5390 Pleasant Hill Drive, Fenton MI 48430



Morning sessions consist of lecture, demonstrations and unmounted exercises. Information about using the psoas (core) muscles for stability and releasing the hyoid muscles to achieve lift in the saddle is presented.

Clinic afternoons consist of small group riding sessions applying the techniques and methods learned in the mornings. Tom does some rider alignment Bodywork with the participants during the course of the clinic and each participant receives a complimentary copy of Zen & Horseback Riding

Mounted, non-mounted, and auditor slots are available. Please visit the MDA website for entry forms.

## Midwest Dressage Association Board of Directors

Will Davis, President
WillDavisi@aol.com



Cheryl Figures, Secretary
C.figs2001@yahoo.com



Tonya Grant, Education/Prof. Adv.
TonyaGrant@visualequestrian.com



Sarah Randolph, Volunteers telosfarm@hotmail.com



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Allison McKenzie, Newsletter amsporthorses@yahoo.com



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Dzaiki18@gmail.com



Pam Morrison, Treasurer info@equinebookkeeping.com



Beth Schaub, Awards beschaub.701@gmail.net



Lindy Thompson,
linden.j.thompson@gmail.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

### Tack/Equipment -

78" Horze 200gm black 1200d blanket. Worn 2 months. \$65

Large Horze 200gm hood. \$35

78" Horze 400gm black 1200d blanket (worn 3 days) \$75

Purchase all three of the items above for \$160. Professionally cleaned and vacuum-bagged. Located in Oxford/Clarkston area. Contact Nancy Bryant at 248-632-2045

Schleese Air Wave 2008 saddle for sale. 17.5-inch seat. This saddle has only been adjusted by Schleese saddle fitters. Pictures are available, just email me at metaphor929@gmail.com. Asking \$2700.00 plus shipping. I am willing to meet buyer; to avoid shipping costs, within a 50- mile radius of Oxford, MI. Pam Wrona 316-680-9730

## **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-

#### **Blue Water Dressage Stables**

Training, Lessons

989-777-7471

pam@bluewaterdressagestables.com

www.bluewaterdressagestables.com

#### **Brilliant Reflection Farm**

Brain and Barbra Reis

Ortonville, MI 48462

248-670-9031

blondmane@yahoo.com

www.brilliantreflectionfarm.com

Lessons, Boarding, Rehab, Schooling Shows

#### **Reflection Arabians**

Indoor and Outdoor arenas

Jim and Nancy Lapeer

Dryden, MI

#### **Allison McKenzie Sporthorses**

Training, Lessons, Breeding, Boarding

Manchester, MI 48158

amsporthorses@yahoo.com

www.allisonmckenziesporthorses.com

734-276-8967

#### **Lone Willows Farm**

Ingrid Baranski

Casco, MI 48064

586-306-6275

www.lonewillowsfarm.net

#### **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

Freestyle Farm

Lisa Caloia BHSAI

Oxford, MI

248-462-2949

Boarding, Lessons, Clinics

Oversized stalls, Large grass pastures

Indoor and Outdoor arenas, Climate

Controlled Observation Room

Sky High Farm

Lapeer, MI 48446

248-890-2426

jenmaull@yahoo.com

http://skyhighfarm.vpweb.com

**Boarding and Dressage Training** 

Summerwood

**Teah Weyers Bankes** 

Hartland, MI 48353

248-887-3819 or 248-408-7842

Training-Grand Prix

Work with Pony Clubbers

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.



### 2018 Calender of Events

#### <u>April</u>

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 1:00pm. Comeback Inn, Milford, MI.
- **14 –** Willowbrooke Farm Dressage Schooling Show, Plymouth, MI. Contact Jennifer Blades willowbrookefarm@aol.com or 313-938-9221
- **14-15 –** MDA Bootcamp, Oxford, MI. Contact Will Davis 810-287-2011 or visit the MDA website for registration forms and information
- **21-22 –** Dressage at Albion College. Albion, MI. Contact Horse Show Office at www.horseshowoffice.com
- **28 –** Brilliant Reflection Farm Dressage Schooling Show, Ortonville, MI. Intro-Second Level. Jockey Club TIP approved show. For more information visit www.brilliantreflectionfarm.com
- **29 –** Woodbine Dressage Schooling Show, Chelsea, MI. Contact Julie Christopher at woodbinefarmhorseshows@gmail.com or Sari Clapperton at sariclapperton@hotmail.com or visit www.woodbinefarms.com (MDA)

#### May

- **4/5/6** John Lassetter Dressage Clinics, Fair Play Farm, Metamora, MI. Contact Pat Toth eliot19@comcast.net or 810-614-1383
- **11/12/13 –** John Lassetter Dressage Clinics, Fair Play Farm, Metamora, MI. Contact Pat Toth eliot19@comcast.net or 810-614-1383
- 12 Wyn Farm Schooling Dressage, Williamston, MI. Visit www.wynfarm.com or call 586-703-7690.
- 13 Wyn Farm Schooling Dressage, Williamston, MI. Visit www.wynfarm.com or call 586-703-7690.
- **19-20 –** Mid Michigan Dressage at Rattlewood Farm. Oxford, MI. Visit www.midmichigandressage.webs.com (MDA)
- **20 –** Woodbine Dressage Schooling Show, Chelsea, MI. Contact Julie Christopher at woodbinefarmhorseshows@gmail.com or Sari Clapperton at sariclapperton@hotmail.com or visit www.woodbinefarms.com (MDA)

#### <u>June</u>

- 1-3 Dressage at Waterloo, Grass Lake, MI. Visit www.horseshowoffice.com (USDF)
- 9 Wyn Farm Schooling Dressage, Williamston, MI. Visit www.wynfarm.com or call 586-703-7690.
- **10 –** Wyn Farm Schooling Dressage, Williamston, MI. Visit www.wynfarm.com or call 586-703-7690.
- **10 –** Woodbine Dressage Schooling Show, Chelsea, MI. Contact Julie Christopher at woodbinefarmhorseshows@gmail.com or Sari Clapperton at sariclapperton@hotmail.com or visit www.woodbinefarms.com (MDA)

- 15-17 Dressage at Waterloo, Grass Lake, MI. Visit www.horseshowoffice.com (USDF)
- **23-24 –** Mid Michigan Dressage Schooling Show, Rattlewood Farm, Oxford, MI. Visit www.midmichigandressage.webs.com (MDA)

#### **July**

- 8 Woodbine Dressage Schooling Show, Chelsea, MI. Contact Julie Christopher at woodbinefarmhorseshows@gmail.com or Sari Clapperton at sariclapperton@hotmail.com or visit www.woodbinefarms.com (MDA)
- 7 Wyn Farm Schooling Dressage, Williamston, MI. Visit www.wynfarm.com or call 586-703-7690
- 8 Wyn Farm Schooling Dressage, Williamston, MI. Visit www.wynfarm.com or call 586-703-7690
- 13-15 Dressage at Waterloo, Grass Lake, MI. Visit www.horseshowoffice.com (USDF)
- **21-22** Mid Michigan Dressage Schooling Show, Rattlewood Farm, Oxford, MI. Visit www.midmichigandressage.webs.com (MDA)
- 26-27 MDA Rider's Seat Clinic with Tom Nagel details will be posted soon
- 28-29 MDA Rider's Seat Clinic with Tom Nagel details will be posted soon
- 28-29 Michigan Summer Dressage at Wyn Farm I & II. Visit www.horseshowoffice.com (USDF)

#### **August**

- **3-5 –** Dressage at Waterloo, Grass Lake, MI. Visit www.horseshowoffice.com (USDF)
- **11-12** Mid Michigan Dressage Schooling Show, Rattlewood Farm, Oxford, MI. Visit www.midmichigandressage.webs.com (MDA)
- **12 –** Woodbine Dressage Schooling Show, Chelsea, MI. Contact Julie Christopher at woodbinefarmhorseshows@gmail.com or Sari Clapperton at sariclapperton@hotmail.com or visit www.woodbinefarms.com (MDA)
- 11 Wyn Farm Schooling Dressage, Williamston, MI. Visit www.wynfarm.com or call 586-703-7690.
- 12 Wyn Farm Schooling Dressage, Williamston, MI. Visit www.wynfarm.com or call 586-703-7690.
- **23-26 –** Dressage at Waterloo Summer Finale, Grass Lake, Ml. Visit www.horseshowoffice.com (USDF)

#### **September**

- **8-9 –** Mid Michigan Dressage at Rattlewood Farm, Oxford, MI. Visit www.midmichigandressage.webs.com (MDA)
- 8 Wyn Farm Schooling Dressage, Williamston MI. Visit www.wynfarm.com or call 586-703-7690.
- 9 Wyn Farm Schooling Dressage, Williamston, Ml. Visit www.wynfarm.com or call 586-703-7690.
- 14-16 Dressage at Waterloo Autumn Classic, Grass Lake, Ml. Visit www.horsewhowoffice.com (USDF)
- **16** Woodbine Dressage Schooling Show, Chelsea, MI. Contact Julie Christopher at woodbinefarmhorseshows@gmail.com or Sari Clapperton at sariclapperton@hotmail.com or visit www.woodbinefarms.com (MDA)
- **28-30 –** Great Lakes Region Dressage Schooling Show Championships, Rattlewood Farm, Oxford, MI. Visit www.midmichigandressage.webs.com
- **29-30** Mid Michigan Dressage Schooling Show, Rattlewood Farm, Oxford, MI. Visit www.midmichigandressage.webs.com (MDA)

#### **October**

11-14 – USDF Region 2 Dressage Championship, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY.

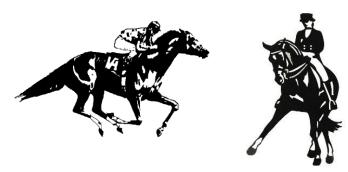
#### **November**

9-12 - USDF Finals, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY.

Shows highlighted in green are participating shows for the MDA Year End Awards. All scores earned will go towards year end awards in the schooling show division.

Shows highlighted in yellow are USDF recognized shows. These shows count towards USDF year-end awards as well as MDA year end awards in the recognized division.

# **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