

# Midwest Dressage Association Newsletter

## *New Year, New Look!*

Welcome to the new MDA Newsletter! I am happy to be taking the reins of the newsletter and giving it a new look but still providing helpful information and news to our members. As always your submissions and ideas

to working with trainers, veterinarians, and farriers as well as other equine professionals to bring you the best and most current information available to keep you and your equine

*"I frequently dream of being on these horses' backs and running across a field. And the horse and I are one."*

*-William Shatner*

are welcome. Please feel free to contact me at [fgfsport\\_horses@yahoo.com](mailto:fgfsport_horses@yahoo.com) if you have any ideas or contributions or even stories to share. I'm looking forward

partners happy and healthy. So keep your heels down and let's go!

-Allison Gaughan

## **HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET?**

Remember that show season is right around the corner (seriously, it's behind the snowbank over there!) In order to be eligible for year-end awards for both schooling shows and recognized shows you must be a member in good standing with the MDA. You can visit the MDA website

[www.midwestdressage.org](http://www.midwestdressage.org)

to print out the membership form.



## General Membership Meeting January 22, 2017

The MDA's General Membership meeting was held on Sunday January 22, 2017 at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Fenton. After a brief meet and greet, Dr. Jane Manfredi, DVM, MS, DACVSLA, DACVSMR, gave a presentation about some of the new projects she is working on at the McPhail Center at Michigan State University that include studying Off The Track Thoroughbreds being trained in second careers and researching saddle and bit fit in the Dressage horse. Dr. Manfredi informed the audience that she is always looking for research subjects so if you would be interested in participating you can



Don't forget to look for the Midwest Dressage Association booth at the Michigan Horse Expo at the Michigan State University Pavillion March 10, 11, and 12!

contact her at Michigan State University.

The meeting continued with committee chairs from the board presenting their year-end reports and voting for acceptance. Most importantly, the new incoming members of the board were voted in and welcomed. Our new members are Debbie Hanneford, Pamela Morrison, and Nancy Bryant with Beth Schaub being re-elected to her position on the board. With the resignation of Barbra Reis from the board we are now looking into appointing a new member of the Board of Directors. Stay tuned for updates.

Will Davis will remain President of the MDA with Lisa Machala assuming the role of Vice President. Nancy Bryant will take over as Secretary and Pam Morrison was voted as the new Treasurer. Various other members of the Board of Executives will serve in roles on various committees. January's meeting was a fun and relaxing time with various members able to meet one another for the first time or rekindle friendships normally enjoyed during show season!

MDA's next board meeting will be March 5 at 1:00pm at the Comeback Inn in Highland. All members are invited to attend.





## *Smile!*

Support the Midwest Dressage Association by shopping at Amazon Smile! What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

**How do I shop at AmazonSmile?** To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to

smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

**Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?** Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

**Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?** Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile.

**How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?** On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

### **Can I change my charity?**

Yes, you can change your charity any time. Your AmazonSmile purchases after the change count towards your newly selected charity. To change your charity, sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser and simply select "Change your Charity" in "Your Account."

**What charities can I choose from?** You can choose from almost one million eligible 501(c)(3) public charitable organizations.

**How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?** The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply.

## *Welcome Back!*



*Terry Ciotti Gallo*

## **The Midwest Dressage Association**

Is proud to welcome back Terry Ciotti Gallo! Terry is a famed clinician and freestyle judge and received rave reviews at our last clinic with her. Please join us 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!

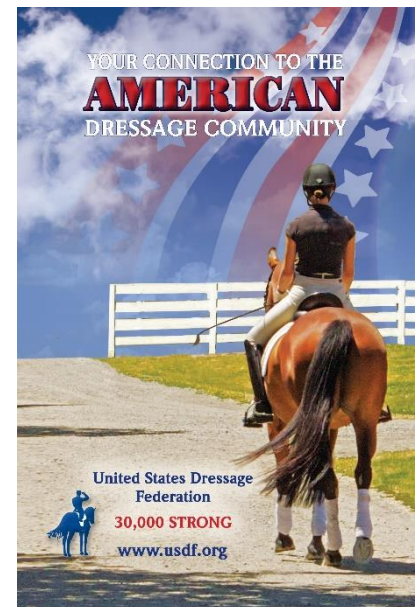
### **MDA Used Tack Sale!**

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 April!*



## *OTTB's – Sense of Humor Required...*

A few months back I wrote an article about the often humorous antics that are presented when you take an off the track

Thoroughbred to its first Dressage show. But as we all know, the real work takes place in the hours and hours spent preparing your finely muscled, fresh-as-a-daisy athlete for life away from the track. From the moment you place a Dressage saddle on your horse, their world changes – life is suddenly less about running to the left as quickly as possible and more about wait...we're going left AND right??? Everything becomes a novelty to your new partner, from the fact that his new jockey has grown considerably longer legs to this notion that there is no stopwatch anywhere and the goal is in fact NOT to win a prize for the fastest 20 meter circle ever. Essentially, you have become a preschool teacher and you will be seeing the

world through your young charges eyes. And while a lot of OTTB's are actually used to loud noises and machinery, it's the little things, like a barn cat blithely launching itself through the air onto their back, that seem to cause the most distress (ask me how I know this and I will have an entirely new article for next months newsletter!) You will find that hosing off your OTTB after a workout is actually quite easy since they are hosed off on a daily basis at the track. However ask that same horse to leg yield and he will look back at you like you have three heads. But perhaps the most interesting thing that I have encountered in all of my years of retraining OTTB's is the fact that when they first come to me they have absolutely no idea what treats are. Being at the track, with its "all business" environment means that these horses aren't exposed to the one thing that all horse owners seem to universally love to do: Spoil our horses rotten and dole

out treats like we are hay-covered, tall-boot-wearing crack dealers. Case in point, a couple of months after acquiring my OTTB, Carrot (yes, that's what I named him and yes he's a chestnut) he still hadn't figured out that treats are a reward. After months of trial and error we seem to have settled on an amicable solution: Animal crackers. Not peppermints. Not horse cookies. Not even carrots. Animal crackers. My 17hh OTTB fiends for animal crackers.

Friends, should you choose to be adopted by an OTTB, you will never regret it (your spouse might, but you won't.) The journey is worth it. The education is outstanding. And how it changes your daily life – well, that's just priceless.



*-Allison Gaughan*

## **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?

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•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 work sheets/requests to:

Will Davis II

9518 Brookway Ct.

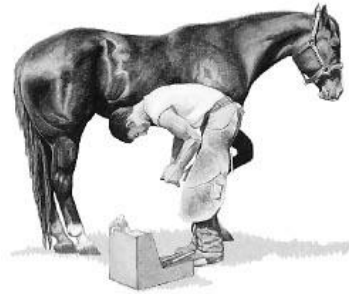
Goodrich, MI 48438

Contact # 810 287 2011

## *Health Notes...*

### *From the farrier*

As we all know our horses are only as good as the feet that they're standing on. Having strong, healthy hooves can make or break our equine partners. This month we had the opportunity to pick the brain of one of southeastern Michigan's best-trained farriers, Jeremy McKenzie and he outlined the things that he wants every horse owner to know.



**MDA:** What are some of the things that you want every horse owner to know about their horses' feet?

**JM:** I want every horse owner to know and keep track of their horses' hoof angles. This is important because it helps you understand more about your horses' way of going. If there is a change in your horses' angles you may notice a change in your horses' movement that could correlate with poor striding and correctness of gait. It could also be an indicator of future lameness.

**MDA:** Explain the benefits of putting steel plates on a horse versus a shoe with more tread.

**JM:** There are no real benefits of one versus the other, it all depends on the job being asked of the horse. However, if you have a horse with arthritic changes in its ankles for example, going in a flat plate will tend to put less stress on the joint as opposed to a shoe with tread which can cause more torque on the joint. But it also depends upon the riding surface. If your horse is going to be ridden in a sand ring most of the time, it wouldn't

necessarily benefit from tread whereas a horse that is worked more on natural surfaces like grass might need more traction.

**MDA:** What are some of the warning signs that something could be wrong with your horses' feet?

**JM:** Some of the things that you should watch for are persistent lameness with little to no heat and swelling in the leg. If your horses' way of going changes or if your horses' stride suddenly becomes a "stabbing" motion, that could be an indicator that there could be something brewing in the boney structures of the hoof. Also if there is heat around the coronet band it could be an indicator of an abscess. Above all, it's important that you give as much attention to your horses' feet as you do to tack and training.

*Jeremy McKenzie is a farrier based in Manchester, MI. He trained with renowned farrier Allen Schmidt for many years before striking off on his own. Jeremy specializes in sporthorses and has worked with several noted Event and Dressage trainers.*



## 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 Gaughan

*fgfsporthorses@yahoo.com*

Denise Gentile

*dar-den@comcast.net*

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 Gaughan

**Historian** – Will Davis

**Directory** – Lisa Machala

**Website** – Lisa Machala

**Volunteers** – Shawn Ragsdale

**Merchandise** – Tonya Grant

**Marketing** – Lisa Machala

**Nominations** – Shawn Ragsdale

**Professional Advisor** – Shawn Ragsdale

# Classified Ads

Classified Ads must be submitted to the newsletter editor via email 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

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

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.

