



Midwest Dressage Association Newsletter

February 2024

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Hello MDA Members! I hope everyone's 2024 is off to a great start. Your MDA Board has already been hard at work planning some exciting events this coming year that we can't wait to tell you more about. Some events include a tack sale and a couple MDA-run clinics. We have set some lofty goals for what we'd like to accomplish and how we are going to get there. Hopefully, you will find something (or a few somethings) that interest you that you can join in. We've updated the newsletter to help keep you up-to-date on upcoming events. You can also find this information on the MDA website or the MDA Facebook page. The website is full of useful information about how to qualify for year end awards, volunteer awards, and education grants. If you have an event you'd like us to include, please reach out to an MDA board member with the details.

Our goal is to provide you with content that is helpful, enjoyable, and educational. We are re-introducing the Classifieds section for anyone that wishes to list used tack or even horses for sale. We've also added some new sections to introduce some of our member trainers, judges, and current board members. I welcome your feedback, good, bad, or otherwise, as we continue to develop the newsletter across this year. If there is additional information or content you'd like to see, please let me know. If you are interested in contributing an article or would like to be featured in one of the sections, please reach out to me at meghan@midwestdressage.org.

I'm looking forward to a great year of educational events, shows, and developing and forming new friendships with my fellow members!

Wishing you all a successful 2024,

Meghan Connolly
Board Member



Meet the Trainer- Erin Miles, Freestyle Farm

This section is designed to introduce MDA Members to some of the fantastic member trainers that we have throughout the State of Michigan. If you are a trainer and interested in being featured, please reach out to meghan@midwestdressage.org.



Name: Erin Miles

Farm Name/Location: Freestyle Farm, 1730 N. Oxford Rd., Oxford, MI 48731

How long have you been riding? I have been riding for 30+ years, and started down the path of classical dressage about 10 years ago.

How long have you been a trainer? I transitioned to a professional dressage rider 4 years ago.

What got you interested in Dressage? I became interested in dressage because the relationship between horse and rider is so much deeper. I also found it inspiring to have the power to help horses with training. As correct dressage improves their balance, fitness, mental health soundness and overall longevity. Who would pass up that chance!

If you could ride in a clinic with anyone, who would it be and why? I would choose JJ Tate, because of her innate talent for helping others with classical and kind training. She has vast knowledge of training many kinds of horses to an advanced level.

What's one tip you think every dressage rider should have (in saddle or on the ground)? Have competent help on the ground. Competent meaning, if you have a goal, your coach should have already achieved it themselves, so they know how to help you reach your goals. Find a coach you are comfortable asking questions, and dissecting challenges. Someone willing to help you learn however you best learn, as we are all different.

What's the best horse advice you have ever been given? Trust your gut and your horse.

Who are your mentors?: Lisa Caloia BHS AI

Are you currently available for lessons and/or training? We are currently open for haul in lessons and have 1 stall available for a horse in training. Contact me via Facebook or by phone, (248) 326-5885.



2023 Convention Report: USDF Celebrates 50 Years

By: Shari Wolke Masi



I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended the USDF Convention in Omaha, Nebraska on December 1-3. The location was apropos, as the very first USDF Convention, and the USDF offices before the construction of the USDF Education Center in the Kentucky Horse Park, were held in Nebraska. I brought back some useful information for MDA members, as well as a greater sense of connection with the dressage community in this country as a whole. It was great to meet so many dedicated dressage enthusiasts- if you get a chance to attend, I highly recommend it! This year's Convention will be held in Houston, Texas, from December 4-7, 2024.

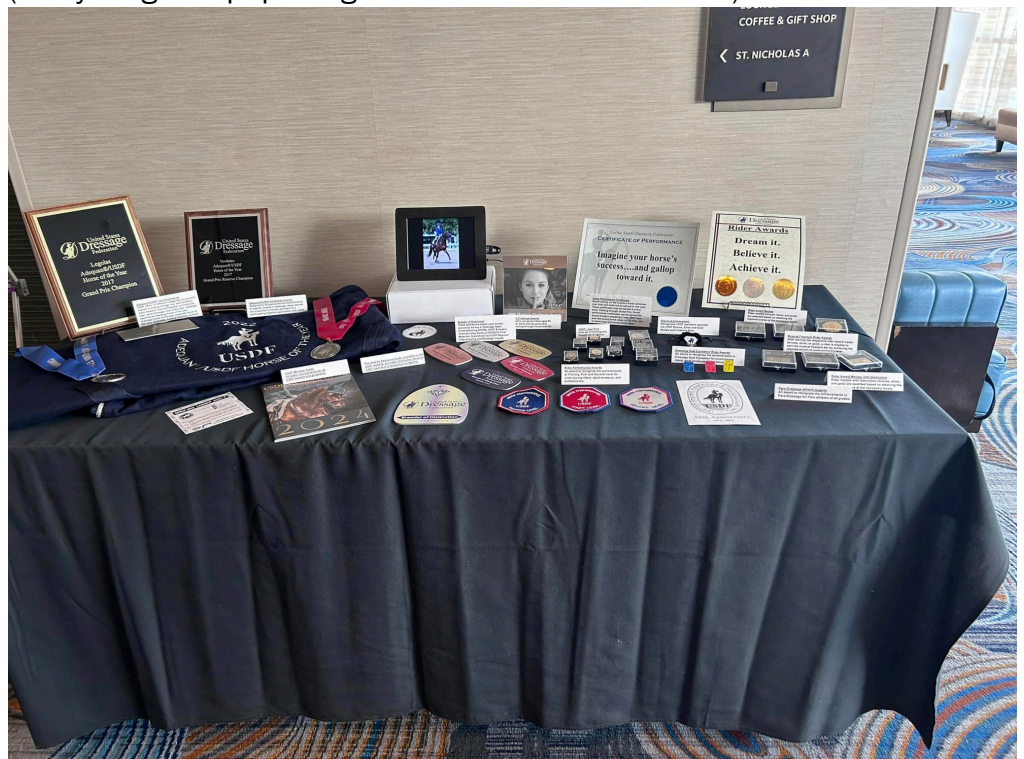
I'll start first with the most relevant information for all members who show at Recognized competitions (Waterloo is our main Recognized show ground here in Michigan). The Equipment Check at level 1, 2 and 3 shows, which is what we have at Waterloo, is changing. Equipment checks are those stops by the Ring steward, as you leave the arena, asking to measure your whip, look at your spurs, and examine your bit (with gloves on). The requests from the membership – and side note, for those who feel as though the USDF does not listen to the membership or show managers, here's an example of feedback directly resulting in a change- were three fold:

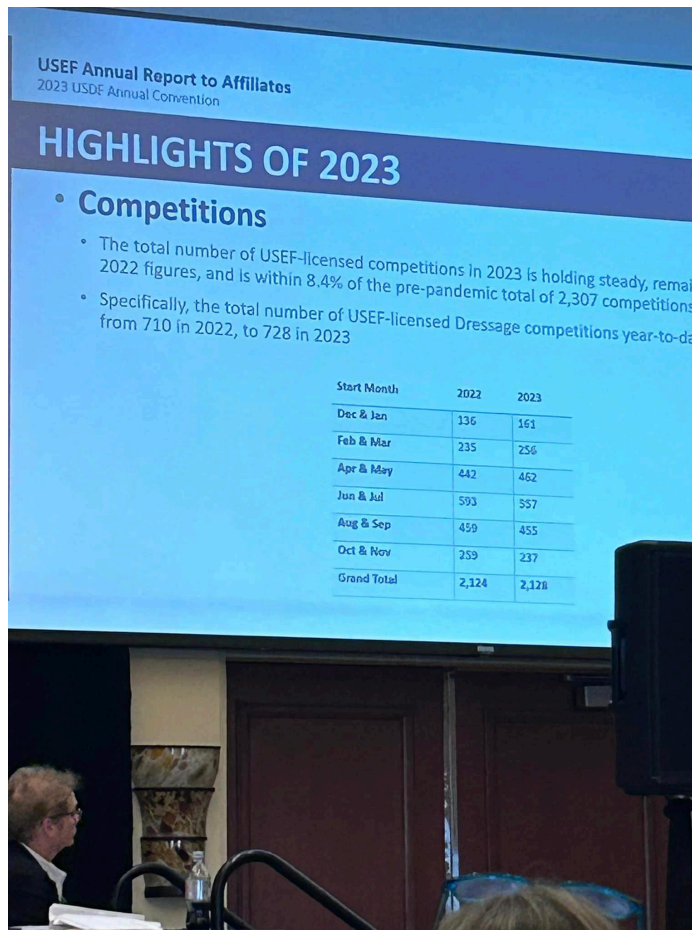
- The first is that, as equipment checks are often volunteer positions, it's hard to staff these positions let alone staff the position with a highly experienced horse person who is comfortable sticking their hands in unknown horses' mouths for the bit check. This is understandable! I try to profusely thank the people at Waterloo doing

the equipment check because I realize it's usually a thankless job PLUS who really wants to put their hands in the mouths of sometimes 3 and 4 year old horses or even horses who have an oral aversion?

- Secondly, in the three years with COVID restrictions, the bit check was not actively practiced. Changing back to an active bit check is a bit like asking office workers to go back to their offices when working from home is fine.
- And finally, Janine Malone (who chaired and spoke at the Rules Change forum, where I learned this information) relayed a story about a volunteer at a competition that was “chomped on” (Janine’s words, not mine). The volunteer was a minor, and that minor sued the organizers. So obviously (and going back to the first point here), liability is an issue if the status quo for bit check was to be kept.

So, for those three reasons (and likely a few others) the plan going forward for Recognized competitions is to have the more structurally educated licensed officials (as opposed to volunteers) checking bits. The requirement now, as opposed to an after-ride bit check, is that TD’s go through every single barn, every single day. Casual observance by TD’s, as well as requests by the TD to examine bits, will become the new norm and standard. The volunteer equipment check (whip, spurs, etc) will continue to do the normal check (everything except putting hands in the horse's mouth).





The next important piece of information to bring back to the membership about participating in Recognized competitions is about the microchipping of horses (the rule number for this is GR 1001.1). All horses competing in Recognized competitions must be microchipped by the 2026 Competition year (which starts December 1, 2025). This just means that sometime between now and December 1, 2025, all horses that we plan on showing need to be microchipped if they are not already. I plan on

getting my horses microchipped this Spring, while doing spring shots, so as to just have it off of my “checklist.”

Another new rule, to be implemented this competition year (effective 12/1/23), is that gloves must be “white” or “the same color as the coat.” That means, for example, no burgundy gloves and a teal coat but ewwww why would you do that??? This is a pretty straightforward rule. My personal rule is white if you have steady hands and dark (the color of your coat) if you want to avoid attention drawn to your hands. And while on the rule change topic, one more applies to avid freestyle competitors: DR 129.6 now requires the rider to immediately approach the judge if something goes wrong with the music/technical aspect of their freestyle (music stops playing, the track switches to the wrong music, etc). Do not pass go, do not collect \$200...right to the judge. This makes sense. I would have thought this was in the rules already.

There were some more rule change proposals (just PROPOSALS, not yet voted on, to be effective 12/1/24). One is that everything moves online for horse show entries (I haven’t entered a horse show that wasn’t everything-online for

many many years, so I don't see this being an issue). Another is that para-dressage is to have opportunity classes at Recognized shows (finally! Shame this hasn't already been the case). An interesting proposal is GR 872, which is that horse temperatures are to be taken twice daily at shows. I'm not sure how this would be implemented, funded or actually put into practice, but I get the intention of the rule and where they're going with it. It would certainly change the face of biosecurity at horse shows, but would make for some very busy (volunteers? Paid veterinarians??) people!

At the Board of Governors meeting on December 3, there was a motion for a new class and a year-end award for Junior/Young rider and amateur riders. This class will be exclusively focused on sport horse handling (on the triangle) in sport horse classes. Importantly- the animal does not have to be breeding stock. That's right, take your 20 year old gelding, the mare you never intend to breed, or even just your young gelding to get exposure, practice in the arena, and experience in horse handling skills. Before this new class and award, there was little incentive for youth and amateur riders to learn about presenting their horses on the triangle as there was no format for them. This new change is exciting- I heard several discussions post-BOG. The more interesting one was overhearing renowned judge and trainer Gwen Ka'aloa state that she always used to take her young students to stock and open shows in order to have them participate in showmanship, as she thought horse handling was so important. With this new class and year end award, riders who want to compete in the sport horse breeding class without breeding stock don't have to venture to separate shows throughout the show season!



In the Region 2 meeting, I learned that Region 2 will be hosting the NAYC's (North American Youth Championships) at the Flintfields Horse Park in Traverse City again this year (2024) and also for 2025. This prestigious event is absolutely HUGE and on another scale- and if you haven't attended the NAYC's, I highly recommend you attend this year!

While I certainly could relay more- I went to some very useful talks, and there are some smaller and less significant rule change proposals- I believe I've covered the main issues of interest to MDA members. If you have questions or

want to know more about any of the above topics, feel free to reach out to me at shariwolke@gmail.com.

Have a great ride!

Shari

Did You Know February is Dental Health Month*?

By: Meghan Connolly

Earlier this month, I learned that February is Dental Health Month. While it's still a bit cold here in Michigan to start considering your horse's dental needs, I took some time to sit down with Susan Tavernier, DVM, to answer some fairly common questions about equine dental health.

Dr. Tavernier is the owner of Sandhill Veterinary Services in Mason, MI. She graduated from Michigan State Veterinary School in 1996. She has an additional ten years of learning skeletal adjustment, acupuncture, and dentistry specialties for both large and small animals. After graduation, she spent twelve years focusing her practice on equine lameness and dentistry, while she traveled the country. Some of her clients included John and Josh Lyons, Lynn Palm, Disneyworld in Orlando, FL; Arabian Nights in Kissimmee, FL; R.E. and Martha Josey; and Ed Wright. Dr. Tavernier settled in Mason and established her current practice, Sandhill Veterinary Services in 2011. In addition to her veterinary practice, she also owns a farm where she runs a boarding stable (Sandhill Stables), and breeds, raises, and sells Quarter Horses and Boer Goats.



Starting with a hard question. What is the difference between an equine dentist and veterinarian performing dental work?

This question requires a response that is much longer than can probably be fit into the newsletter. I'm going to hit some of the high points of the difference between what an equine dentist can legally perform versus your veterinarian. Under Michigan law, an owner is allowed to do anything of your choosing to your own animal. When an individual starts doing something to someone else's animal, that is when the Michigan Veterinary Practice Act (MCL 333.18801) comes into play. Some states have exempted teeth floating from their definition of the practice of veterinary medicine, which allows non-veterinarians to perform floats without the supervision of a veterinarian. Michigan is not one of those states. Under Michigan law, all veterinary procedures, including equine dentistry are supposed to be performed by a licensed veterinarian or a licensed vet tech under the supervision of a veterinarian.

Based on these laws, an equine dentist that is not a licensed veterinarian would not be allowed to sedate your horse, diagnose issues with the horse's mouth, and would not be covered by veterinary malpractice insurance. There have been cases in Michigan where horses have died due to improper administration or dosing of sedation that was administered by an equine dentist.

For dental procedures, the standard of care is to use an oral speculum during treatment to access the entire mouth. These speculums should not be utilized without some form of sedation, as a horse may bite down and break their jaw.

If there are any problems post-float, such as a fractured tooth not being completely removed, abscesses, or severe complications like bacterial meningitis, an owner may have a harder time or greater expense getting a veterinarian to evaluate and treat the horse. When the veterinarian hasn't performed the original float, he/she may have a harder time diagnosing the problem because he/she won't know exactly what has been done. This may cause additional time and expense if something like x-rays or bloodwork are needed.

The benefits of having your veterinarian perform the dental work are many:

- They are licensed to administer sedation
- They are able to diagnose other health issues outside of just floating your horse's teeth
- They can perform extractions as needed
- They can diagnose TMJ issues
- They can perform foreign body removal; treat abscesses; drill and pick cavities; and assess and treat broken teeth and broken jaws
- They can prescribe antibiotics and pain medications
- Dental work can usually be combined in a farm call if other maintenance, preventative care, vaccines, etc. is needed for the horse

Understanding that not everyone is in a position to have their veterinarian perform the work, whether that's due to budget constraints, location, etc., my best recommendation if you choose to go the route of an equine dentist is to make sure that the person is properly insured and has the appropriate training for the job they are performing.

How often should I have my horse's teeth checked?

This varies based on the horse's age. The general rule of thumb that I recommend to my clients is to have the horse's teeth check every 6 months if they are under the age of 5, or over the age of 15. For horses between the ages of 5 and 15, you can usually have them checked annually, unless there are other known issues with the horse's mouth, such as missing teeth, an overbite/underbite, wave mouth, etc.. In those situations, you should consult with your vet for a recommended schedule.

Just because you are checking the horse's teeth doesn't always mean that they will need to be floated. At the check, your vet can evaluate the horse's mouth and determine what, if any, work is needed.

What are some signs that my horse needs his teeth floated?

There are some obvious signs and some less obvious signs that you may need to consider getting your horse's teeth floated. The more obvious signs include dropping grain, weight loss, or head turning while the horse is eating. Some of

the less obvious signs are when your horse makes a yawning motion (opens his jaw) without actually yawning. Your horse may also toss his head, root his nose, or have an open mouth while being ridden.

Are there any medical conditions you can detect through a horse's teeth?

Yes. Veterinarians are able to detect conditions such as anemia, liver disease, and hydration status through oral exam. A lesser-known fact is that the mouth may also be causing some lameness issues. So, if your horse is showing signs of lameness, but you can't find a cause, talk with your vet about checking their mouth.

Why is dental care so important for a horse?

Dental issues can cause the horse to not be able to chew properly. This may cause the horse to lose weight, or even become emaciated. This can interfere with using the horse for riding, driving, etc., and can even become life threatening. Issues in the mouth may shorten the life span of your horse by causing abscesses and pain in the mouth and body.

More specifically for dressage horses, FEI and USDF only allow certain bits to be used. Having an in-depth oral exam done by your vet may help you determine the proper size and fit of the bit by taking into account thin or sharp bars in the mouth, overly thick tongues, or space between the tongue and roof of the mouth. Also, because of the use of cavessons in dressage, it may be less likely that you see the horse opening their mouth if there is a dental issue like you might see in the western disciplines, for example.

As an owner, is there anything I should be doing in between dental visits?

Since we aren't able to brush their teeth daily like we can our dogs or cats, I recommend you make sure to keep plenty of fresh, clean water to help flush the horse's mouth in case of potential foreign objects, like twigs, small sticks, slivers, or grass awns. Ideally, the horse would also have forage in front of him all day long to help wear the teeth down. This isn't always possible at every barn, but I recommend giving the horse as much opportunity as possible for forage. It not only helps with the teeth, but will also keep the GI system happy. Finally, be sure to watch your horse and check his environment for signs of wood chewing or cribbing (yes, these are two different things). This may not be an immediate sign of a dental issue, but both behaviors may cause mouth issues in the future.

What is the most common dental issue you see in horses?

Probably caudal hooks in the mandible [author note- I had to look up what this was. It's the back teeth in the lower jaw having tall, sharp points].

I also see caudal hooks on the corner incisors [last tooth before the bar in the upper jaw], which is known as the “seven year hook.” This is a very common reason for horses rooting their noses while being ridden.

Do you have any memorable experiences from working on a horse’s mouth?

I have two that come to mind. The first happened a few years ago, when a Percheron was shipped up to me from Ohio. He was presented with left front lameness. The owner sent me video of the horse being driven, with obvious head nod (down on right front, up on left front). When the horse would stop, he would take his head to the right. These are signs consistent with left front lameness. I completed my physical exam and my assessment was dental pain and left knee pain. I called the owner and recommended floating his teeth first, and then reevaluating the knee once the horse came out of sedation. The owner agreed and we floated the teeth.

After the horse woke up, his signs of knee pain were about 90% gone. I called the owner and told her I was sending him home and to keep me posted. The owner got upset with me, saying she didn’t ship the horse several hours just to have his teeth floated. I told her that if the horse was the same or worse with left front lameness when he got home to call me and I would come down to her in Ohio and fix whatever was wrong with him for free.

The owner called me a week later to let me know the horse was back to normal and doing great. She then asked when I could come down to Ohio to evaluate and float the rest of her horse’s teeth. She also told me that she had sent the lame horse to five other vet clinics, including a university hospital, and spent over \$20,000 treating him. Treatment included nerve blocks, joint blocks, radiographs, ultrasound, and a CT exam of the left front leg, with nothing being found wrong with his leg. At the time, she did not believe that a dental issue could cause a limp like he had. But with the prior examinations not finding anything, and him returning to normal after the float, that’s what ended up being the issue!

The second experience happened just a few months ago. A horse came to me with multiple lacerations on her tongue to the point that it was almost severed in half. This happened after the owner had tied the horse up by the reins with the bit in her mouth. The horse ended up spooking and took off running through the woods. There was a lot of damage done to her mouth before the bridle finally broke. The bit was a simple snaffle, nothing that would be considered “harsh.” I was able to suture the tongue and the horse has fully recovered, thankfully. My PSA to all riders- don’t tie your horses up by the reins when there is a bit in their mouth, no matter how mild you think the bit is or how well trained you think the horse is.

**Nothing in this article is intended to be medical advice. Each animal should be evaluated individually by a trained professional. If you have questions or concerns about your horse’s teeth or mouth, please reach out to your veterinarian.*

2023 MDA Banquet and Year End Award Review

By: Mykal Roth

The 2023 Year End Awards were held on November 19th at the Crystal Gardens in Howell. The luncheon welcomed 130 members and guests for an afternoon of celebration and camaraderie. Over 117 awards were given out in recognition of our members' hard work and dedication.

Special awards given out included the Vi Hopkins Trophy, presented to Nicola Tucker riding Pandora, for having the highest percentage scores at recognized shows for an adult amateur, Training level. The Rosemary Herman Memorial award went to Christy Wicke and Dazzling Star for highest combination of three scores, where the rider is 50 or older. The Encore Award, which recognizes the highest placed OTTB went to Champion: Christy Wicke and Dazzling Star and Reserve Champion: Ella Spiers and Mission Complete. Lastly, the Jean Brown Memorial award was awarded to Nancy Bryant for her outstanding volunteer work.

Along with an array of beautiful ribbons, our champions were gifted an MDA embroidered camp chair.



We are incredibly grateful to all the wonderful people who donated to the silent auction. The auction brought in over \$1,800 for the MDA to use for education and year end awards. A special Thank You to Nancy Bryant for helping organize and run the silent auction.

Please take a moment to read over the donors:

Abbie Miles

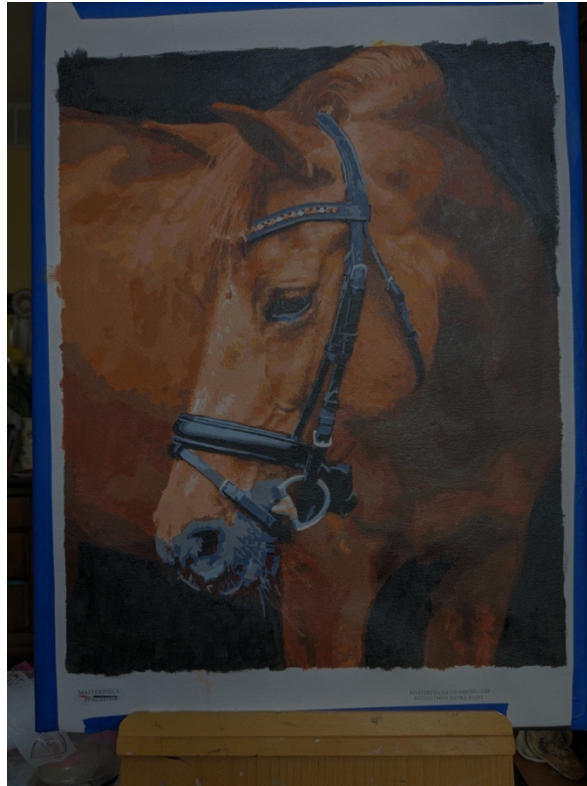
Freestyle Farm and Erin Miles

Diana Hadsall

Hadley Hills Equine

Deisig Dressage
 Dr. Moore, DVM
 Equestrian Enrichment
 Everything Equine Tack Store
 Monique Molnar and Brian Bates
 The Embroidered Horse
 TSC Oxford

Holly Zecchin
 Jaime Pachota
 Jeff Powers
 Kathy Zeeman
 Susan Roth
 Tori Hall



Custom Paint by Number completed by Susan Roth of That Should Be A Painting. This painting was completed by Susan for the winner of her silent auction donation. This is a professional photo that was turned into a custom paint by number. The horse owner has purchased the digital rights to the photo.

Year End Award Results

Schooling Show Awards

Intro AA

Champion	Meghan	Connolly	KSD Playing Possum	73.2290%
Res				
Champion	Katie	Bratschi	RG Chief Red Cloud	72.5630%
			EA A MAJOR	
	3 Valerie	Pfeiffer	ELAGENZ	67.2720%

4	Tracy	Engbloom	O VALHALLA	67.2710%
5	Leslie	Kot	Chewbacca Sable	66.7430%
6	Patricia	Watkins	DGS Individual	63.1040%

Intro Jr/YR

Champion	Juliana	James	Cinderella	68.8960%
Res				
Champion	Alexandra	Elton	Tanya Tooker	68.7680%
3	Isabela	Stawiarski	Stormy	67.9710%
4	Olivia	Kanzler	Master H Cameo of	66.8960%
5	Annalisa	Wilkinson	Maidenview	66.5620%
6	Teagan	Jimenez	Rain	64.6740%
7	Katie	Messana	SCMF Senator Ted	63.0830%
8	Brenae	Scheidler	Buck	62.2250%

Intro Open

Champion	Colleen	Navarre	Murphys Irish Stout	64.8750%
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Training NH

Champion	Ella	Spiers	SuperMajority	67.6390%
Res				
Champion	Wendie	Tresik	Cunagunda	66.3780%
3	Reagan	Moran	Saturday Affair	58.9130%

Training Jr/YR

Champion	Lillian	Penney	LAMBRUSCO	70.8220%
Res			Mr. Personality (Wall- E)	
Champion	Avery	Duncan		69.1610%
3	Cate	Penney	FAO Schwarz SCMF WINGED	68.2690%
4	Katie	Messana	WARRIOR	67.8740%
5	Isabelle	Ray	Goliath Cameo of	67.8000%
6	Bailey	Passeggiato	Maidenview	67.1340%
7	Alexandra	Elton	Tanya Tooker	66.1670%
8	Saara	Ashtiani	Jm Yukon Jack	65.9610%
9	Teresa	Golip	Ali	65.1360%
10	Daphne	Rasegan	ELTON J Assendruplunds	62.7420%
11	Breanna	Nowakowski	Cameroun	62.5120%
12	Brenae	Scheidler	Buck	57.2670%

Training AA

Champion Res	Manette	Kaufman	BALLYMURPHY PAULIE	71.3210%	
Champion	Lindsey	Scheer	Iron Man	70.8000%	
	3	Charlotte	Roland	MOCHAJAVA	69.7880%
	4	Kalin	Macqueen	PRIORITY	69.5010%
	5	Paula	Kotowski	You're My Boy Blue	69.3820%
	6	Andrea	Sarpolus	Pipers Song	68.2410%
	7	Christy	Wicke	DAZZLING STAR	68.0020%
	8	Manette	Kaufman	SCS SIERRA GOLD	67.9150%
	9	Cynthia	Andro	Trust My Lady Lark	67.4870%
	10	Nichole	Wilkinson	Tantivy	67.4530%
	11	Briahna	Reis	HOT N SPICEE	64.8340%
	12	Monique	Molnar	Clover All Over	64.7470%
	13	Lauren	LaBeau	Mister Personality	63.6230%
	14	Allison	Armstrong	Tucker	61.4940%

**Training
Open**

Champion Res	Mykal	Roth	LEONIDAS WINDFALL	67.6930%
Champion	Erin	Miles	PRINCE OF MISCHIEF	64.1000%

**First Level
Jr/YR**

Champion	Ella	Spiers	Mission Complete	67.2100%
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**First Level
AA**

Champion Res	Alison	MacGillivray	DeLuxe Edition	71.1570%	
Champion	Holly	Bordeau	Landella BSH	66.8520%	
	3	Kelly	Gilbert	KILLALA BAY	66.8390%
	4	Susan	Roth	Levi	62.8380%
	5	Kimberly	Wahl	Smokin Hollywood Pep	62.8320%

**First Level
Open**

Champion Res	Karen	Suit	PENNYS WORTH	66.1000%
Champion	Brittany	Weber	Canadian Trademark	65.5730%

Second AA

Champion	Holly	Bordeau	Landella BSH	63.6590%
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Res				
Champion	Shannon	Dempich	Maximus Malin	62.1030%
	3 Tammy	Newcomb	Northerly True Colors	58.6130%

Western Dressage

Intro Jr/YR

Champion	Colton	Luszczynski	CJL Crazy Train	60.6200%
Res				
Champion	Teagan	Jimenez	Millie	56.7140%

Intro Open

Champion	Chrissy	Luszczynski	The Charmed One	69.0000%
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Intro AA

Champion	Amanda	Cramer	Prince's Foxy Lady	71.1740%
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Basic AA

Champion	Amanda	Cramer	Princes Foxy Lady	70.0470%
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Level 1

Open

Champion	Holly	Zecchin	BUCKEYE WARRIOR	73.2830%
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Level 1 AA

Champion	Kimberly	Wahl	Smokin Hollywood Pep	65.8020%
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Level 2 AA

Champion	Kristin	Kill	Glorificado	74.1640%
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Recognized Year End Award Winners

Training Level AA

	Jennifer	Clooten	Winhorses' for Amour	73.267%
Champion	Nicola	Tucker	Pandora	70.467%
Res Champion	Lucia	Barber	Gigant E	68.130%
3	Heather	Marion	Tackman's Dark Moccachino	67.423%
4	Paige	Emerson	Simi OVS	66.990%
5	Valyn	Dall	Paddyngton's Golden Glory	66.577%
6	Susan	Pelto	Cityscape	61.400%

Training Level Open

Champion	Carrie	Wilson	Fhlawless Ruby	73.818%
Res Champion	Katie	Foster	Autobahn of Genesis	70.046%
3	Shari	Wolke	Aero WEF	66.133%

First Level Jr/YR

Champion	Nodi	Penney	Lambrusco	69.421%
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First Level AA

Champion	Jennifer	Clooten	Winhorses' for Amour	70.278%
Res Champion	Kelly	Gilbert	Killala Bay	65.401%
3	Lucia	Barbier	Gigant E	65.251%
4	Valyn	Dall	Paddyngton's Golden Glory	64.197%
5	Paige	Emmerson	Simi OVS	63.565%

6	Stephanie	Johnson	Chasing Rainbows	62.824%
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First Level Open

Champion	Eleanor	Millerschinn	Jack Call	71.944%
Res Champion	Katie	Foster	Autobahn of Genesis	69.053%
3	Shari	Wolke	Cityscape	67.728%
4	Allison	McKenzie	The Dastardly Pony	63.636%
5	Karen	Suit	Penny's Worth	63.024%

Second Level Jr/YR

Champion	Nodi	Penney	Lambrusco	63.715%
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Second Level Open

Champion	Rebecca	Bastianelli	Jorento	63.611%
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Second Level AA

Champion	Kelli	Diener	Pair A Dice	65.199%
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Third Level Jr/YR

Champion	Cale	Artz	Boston SWB	70.063%
Res Champion	Mia	Durant	Omazing	63.613%

Third Level AA

Champion	Kennedy	Parker	Ijsdraak	65.472%
Res Champion	Mindy	Lane	Fjurie	64.250%
3	Iris	Foote	E-ROS	63.261%
4	Karen	Bartholomew	Denaly	61.785%
5	Kelli	Diener	Pair A Dice	60.854%

Third Level Open

Champion	Carrie	Wilson	Urbanus G. fan 'e Rydwei	68.208%
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Fourth Level Jr/YR

Champion	Cale	Artz	HPB Wradish	66.666%
Res Champion	Cale	Artz	Boston SWB	66.366%

Fourth Level AA

Champion	Mindy	Lane	Fjurie	66.308%
Res Champion	Andrea	Bruce	Wicked Games	64.722%

Fourth Level Open

Champion	Carrie	Wilson	Urbanus G. fan'e Rydwei	68.292%
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Priz St. George Jr/YR

Champion	Londyn	Pachota	Samurai V	63.775%
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Prix St George AA

Champion	Andrea	Bruce	Wicked Games	63.676%
Res Champion	Janet	Niezwick	Sweet Emmylou	63.627%
3	Valarie	Boatman	MSU Superstitious +//	61.667%
4	Jane	Manfredi	Anastasia	60.147%

Prix St. George Open

Champion	Eleanor	Millerschinn	Colmenar	68.064%
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Intermediare 1 AA

Champion	Kelly	Levasseur	Luminus	66.593%
Res Champion	Jane	Manfredi	Anastasia	64.265%

Intermediare 1 Open

Champion	Eleanor	Millerschinn	Colmenar	68.333%
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Grand Prix Open

Champion	Carrie	Wilson	Bella Notte	66.123%
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Freestyle National Level**1st - 4th level**

Champion	Cale	Artz	Boston SWB (3rd Level)	69.808%
Res Champion	Mindy	Lane	Fjurie	68.000%
3	Londyn	Pachota	Samurai V (4th Level)	67.142%
4	Iris	Foote	E-ROS (3rd Level)	66.700%
5	Valarie	Boatman	MSU Superstitious +// (4th Level)	66.091%
6	Paige	Emmerson	Simi OVS (1st Level)	65.569%
7	Janet	Nierzwick	Sweet Emmylou (4th Level)	64.694%

FEI I-1 - GP

Champion	Carrie	Wilson	Bella Notte	70.417%
Res Champion	Kelly	Levasseur	Luminus	66.593%

Para Dressage Grade 1**Grand Prix**

Champion	Cynthia	Cook	Thys W	67.639%
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Education Grant Program

DEADLINE MARCH 31st – Deadline was extended to the end of March

The MDA will be offering 3 up to \$500.00 Grants. One Grant will be awarded to each of the following membership categories per calendar year.

1- Open

1-Adult Amateur

1-Junior

The maximum of each grant will be \$500.00

Link below with application specifics and eligibility requirements:

<https://www.midwestdressage.org/education-grant-program.html>

Any questions can be directed to: Cfigs_mda@yahoo.com

Upcoming MDA Events

March 8th, 9th, and 10th Michigan Horse Expo at the MSU Pavillion

Visit us at the MI Horse Expo all three days!

Lots of shopping and Demos/seminars to watch and learn.

April 13th MDA Benefit Used Tack Sale

What: **1st Annual (hopefully) MDA Benefit Tack Sale**

When: **Saturday, April 13, 2024; from 10 - 4**

Where: **Rattlewood Farm – 1935 Ray Rd, Oxford 48371**

Over 32 vendor spaces available. Come sell your used English and Western tack or stock up before show season. We welcome new tack vendors and boutique vendors. Booths start at \$35, with double booth, and tack/boutique trailer space available. MDA members will be given 1st opportunity for sale space.

If you get tired of shopping, feel free to sit and watch one of the free educational lectures that will be going on throughout the event. If you are interested in being a lecturer, please let us know! (Lectures must be dressage or equine health related.)

If you have items you would like to donate, the MDA will have a donation table available. All sales and admissions will go to the Midwest Dressage Association for both year-end awards and educational programs.

Admission: \$3 for Adult MDA Members, \$5 for adult non-members, all Jr/Young Riders are free (20 years old and younger)

Contact Mykal Roth at mykal@midwestdressage.org or text 810-441-0263 for more information

Sign up forms available at: [MDA Benefit Used Tack Sale Registration \(google.com\)](#)

We hope to see you there!

June 22nd and 23rd MDA Clinic

What: **From a Judge's Perspective and Fix-a-Test Clinic**

When: **Saturday and Sunday June 22-23**

Where: **Rattlewood Farm – 1935 Ray Rd, Oxford 48371**

Judge: Cheryl Connell-Marsh, R

Come join us for a 2-day clinic with Judge Cheryl Connell-Marsh, R. Have you ever wondered what a judge's perspective was on a ride, or if they see riders making the same mistakes over and over again? Come on Saturday June 22nd to watch demo riders from Intro-4th Level, and listen to commentary from our judge. This is an open forum event, and we welcome the audience to ask every question you've ever wanted to know!

Day 2 will be a Fix-a-Test opportunity. Ride the test that's giving you trouble or test out a new level without the show cost. After the ride, Cheryl will give you feedback and tips to better your score. You will then be given the opportunity to redo the test. This is an excellent chance to see if you're ready to move up a level or ask for help on movements that you are struggling with.

Cost:

Stalls are available for \$40 a night.

Day 1 Auditing is \$45 for adults and \$25 for Juniors (20 years old and younger); discounts given for auditing/riding both days.

Day 2 Fix-a-Test Clinic is \$65 per spot (9 - 45 minute spots available)

Stalls are available for \$40 a night, no stall stripping required.

Demo Riders Wanted! If interested, please provide level you wish to ride. Please note that all demo riders must have shown successfully (scores in the 60's) at the level they wish to ride, or have a trainer recommendation of level ability.

Please contact Mykal Roth for more information at:

Mykal@midwestdressage.org, or text 810-441-0263

2024 MDA Recognized Schooling Shows as of March 1, 2024

Please Note: Additional shows may be added. Please check Facebook and the MDA website for the most up to date information.

MIDWEST DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION SCHOOLING SHOWS 2024

APRIL

April 28, Woodbine Farm @ 9976 Liberty Rd. Chelsea

MAY

May 5, Aberdeen Farm @ 3500 Seven Mile Road, South Lyon

May 11-12, Thistle Run @ Ingham Co. Fair, Mason

May 11-12, Wyn Farm @ 3100 Noble Road, Williamston

May 12, Woodbine Farm @9976 Liberty Rd. Chelsea

May 18, Aberdeen Farm @ 3500 Seven Mile Road, South Lyon

May 26, Great Lakes Dressage Club @ Fulton Co. Fair
Wauseon

JUNE

June 2, Aberdeen Farm @ 3500 Seven Mile Road, South Lyon

June 2, Woodbine Farm @9976 Liberty Rd. Chelsea

June 1-2, Thistle Run @ Ingham Co. Fairgrounds, Mason

June 8-9, Matador Farm @ Rattlewood Farms, Oxford

June 8-9, Wyn Farm @ 3100 Noble Road, Williamston

JULY

July 7, Woodbine Farm @9976 Liberty Rd. Chelsea

July 20, Aberdeen Farm @ 3500 Seven Mile Road, South Lyon

July 13-14, Matador Farm @ Rattlewood Farms, Oxford

July 13-14, Wyn Farm @ 3100 Noble Road, Williamston

AUGUST

Aug 3-4, Matador Farm @ Rattlewood Farms, Oxford

Aug 4, Aberdeen Farm @ 3500 Seven Mile Road, South Lyon

Aug 10-11, Wyn Farm @ 3100 Noble Road, Williamston

Aug 11, Woodbine Farm @9976 Liberty Rd. Chelsea

Aug 17, Aberdeen Farm @ 3500 Seven Mile Road, South Lyon

Aug 24-25, Thistle Run @ Ingham Co. Fairgrounds, Mason

SEPTEMBER

Sept 7-8, Matador Farm @ Rattlewood Farms, Oxford

Sept 7-8, Thistle Run @ Ingham Co. Fairgrounds, Mason

Sept 7-8, Wyn Farm @ 3100 Noble Road, Williamston

Sept 15, Aberdeen Farm @ 3500 Seven Mile Road

Sept 29, Aberdeen Farm @ 3500 Seven Mile Road

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for a few good volunteers . The MDA has exciting activities planned for 2024 and we can use your help. Come and meet new people by volunteering and make some new friendships In addition, you earn volunteer hours that go toward recognition at our annual Banquet.

If you would like to be involved contact Leslie Richardson at leslie@midwestdressage.org or brock_48446@yahoo.com.

We would love to meet you and join us.

Upcoming Clinics

Here is a list of some upcoming clinics being held in Michigan. Please note that none of these clinics are sponsored by MDA. Please contact the people listed for additional information. If you are hosting a clinic that you would like added to future newsletters, please email meghan@midwestdressage.org

March 23rd and 24th Cavaletti Clinic with Erika Jansson

Erika's Cavaletti clinic helps the rider create a sport horse that is highly responsive, maneuverable, can rapidly and smoothly collect or extend the gaits, stop, turn, and remain balanced. Best known for her ability to achieve fast results with no pressure for the horse or the rider, she supplies her students (two & four legged) with volumes of empathy and encouragement. Beginning with four cavalettis and developing a tempo and rhythm with your horse, Erika uses a combination of humor and determination to help you relax and learn. Your horse will gain elasticity, respond better to half halts, learn to ride straighter, and develop strength and flexibility.

April 5-7 Alfredo Hernandez

Clara Etzel Dressage is hosting a dressage clinic with Alfredo Hernandez on April 5-7, 2024 at Aberdeen Farm. Classically trained at the Portuguese Riding School, Alfredo Hernandez specializes in the Piaffe, Passage, and Spanish Walk/Trot. He utilizes these classic movements as a gymnastic tool to develop strength and improve each horse's gaits. Alfredo works with all ages, breeds, and levels of horses. Horses in the clinic need not be started in Piaffe/Passage, these sessions can be designed to introduce or develop Piaffe/Passage and can also provide focused instruction in all other areas of dressage. Rider spots are available at \$295/ride which includes one groom and lunch. Stabling \$60/day. Haul In \$40/day. Auditor spots are \$50/day and include lunch. Register here: <https://www.claraetzeldressagellc.com/clinic-registration>

April 27-28 JJ Tate

JJ Tate is coming to Oxford, Michigan

April 27th & 28th @ Rattlewood Farm.

Rider spots filled in 12 hours.

Auditing available on a limited basis and requires pre-registration and pre-payment, RSVP to nancyclair0924@gmail.com

JJ Tate is a top International Grand Prix dressage rider and trainer. JJ Has been competing at the highest levels for over 25 years. She holds herself to the highest standards to train with integrity and without shortcuts, adhering to the classical dressage principles that are aligned with how horses think, move, and learn.

She has successfully trained dozens of horses up the levels and has competed over 30 horses at the FEI levels with many notable accomplishments throughout her career.

JJ is a gifted teacher and a highly sought-after clinician. She happily works with any horse and rider at any level, sharing her program based on humane, compassionate, And systematic development of the horse through classical dressage.

Please email only for rider and auditor information, this one is filling fast.

MDA Board of Directors and Committees

As a Board, we look forward to serving you. We would love to hear from you! If you have questions or concerns about a specific event or area, please contact the following people:

- Marketing: Alexandra Pollack (alexandra@midwestdressage.org) or Mykal Roth (mykal@midwestdressage.org)
- Year End Awards/Schooling Shows: Kelly Richardson (kelly@midwestdressage.org) or Alexandra Pollack (alexandra@midwestdressage.org)
- Redbook: Beth Schaub (beth@midwestdressage.org)
- Membership: Katie Bratschi (katie@midwestdressage.org) or Cheryl Figures (cfigs_mda@yahoo.com)

- Education: Susan Roth (susan@midwestdressage.org) or Mykal Roth (mykal@midwestdressage.org)
- Professional Advisory: Alexandra Pollack (alexandra@midwestdressage.org)
- Year End Banquet: Meghan Connolly (meghan@midwestdressage.org) or Susan Roth (susan@midwestdressage.org)
- Historical: Beth Schaub (beth@midwestdressage.org)
- Volunteers: Leslie Richardson (brock_48446@yahoo.com)
- Communications: Mykal Roth (social media) (mykal@midwestdressage.org) or Meghan Connolly (newsletter) (meghan@midwestdressage.org)

President: Holly Zecchin (holly@midwestdressage.org)

Vice President: Mykal Roth (mykal@midwestdressage.org)

Secretary: Katie Bratschi (katie@midwestdressage.org)

Treasurer: Cheryl Figures (cfigs_mda@yahoo.com)

Thank You, Sponsors!

The MDA would like to thank the following sponsors for their ongoing support for 2024:

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Classifieds

If you are interested in listing anything for sale in the classifieds, please contact Meghan Connolly at meghan@midwestdressage.org.