



Midwest Dressage Association Newsletter

March 2024

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2023 USDF Convention Report

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MDA Vice President Mykal Roth shares some of her top tips to successful attendance at a riding clinic

From the Board

Hello MDA Members! Just when I thought Spring was here, Mother Nature decided to throw us one more curveball with a cold week. If your horses are anything like mine, they are feeling a bit spicy! The winter shed is one of my favorite times, as weird as that sounds. I find it relaxing to get to spend time with the shed blade getting my horses ready for the warmer temps. Last week, I was up to my ankles in hair with no end in sight. I'm looking forward to those sleeker, shinier coats that come with the warmer months, and seeing my gray horse actually look gray instead yellow. What are you looking forward to?

The Board has been busy putting the final touches on the upcoming tack sale and clinic. We also attended the Michigan Horse Expo at the MSU Pavilion earlier this month. Thank you to everyone who stopped by, and congratulations to Jennifer Leitch and Cady Brewer, the winners of our MDA membership giveaway sponsored by Cheryl Figures and Mykal Roth. Just a friendly reminder to everyone to renew your membership if you haven't already done so. Show season is coming quickly, and you need to be a member in order for your scores to count towards the year end awards.

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.

Meghan Connolly
Board Member



Meet the Judge- Leah Majkrzak, Arcturus Equine

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



Name: Leah Majkrzak (pronounced: My-shack)

What is your judge ranking: L-Graduate

How long have you been a judge: I completed the L-Program in 2018

What got you interested in becoming a judge: I was really interested in rounding out my education beyond just the riding portion. The L-Program has helped me to be a better instructor, competitor, and horsewoman.

What, if any, movements in the tests that you see people struggle with the most: In the lower levels (Intro/Training) really utilizing the corners to prepare the horse for the next movement or transition. I like to tell my students that riding corners well doesn't "go away" as you move up the levels-- it only becomes more important so it's a good skill to master in the beginning.



What is one tip that you'd give a rider preparing for her first show season: Be detail-oriented. Know your test(s). Have a good coach who is honest with you about you and your horse's abilities. Be willing to adapt-- horses get sick, have bad days, the weather can be terrible...so many things out of your control can happen and it's best to be flexible and choose to do what's best for your horse.

Is there anything you wish you could tell riders before or after coming into your ring? I think most judges would say that they really do want to see horses and riders being successful-- no one wants to hand out low scores and I'm always bummed if I have to give a 4 or below.

What has been your most memorable experience while judging: Luckily I haven't had very many super memorable moments while judging but I do have a very memorable one from scribing! In 2016 I was scribing at the US Dressage Finals for Jane Weatherwax; we were in the Alltech Arena at C judging a test when the entire Kentucky Horse Park lost power, it went pitch black for a few seconds before the emergency lighting came on. It took everyone a few minutes to regroup and we were able to finish the class with very dim lighting. All of the horses and riders did a super job under some not-so-ideal circumstances but the show carried on!

Where can show managers contact you if they'd like to have you judge a show: I can be reached via cell phone (734) 660-9753 or email yurasekL@gmail.com

2023 USDF Annual Convention, Omaha Nebraska

“Take a Steak in Dressage”

(Get it – Steak/Omaha)

By: Nancy Bryant

Every year after the last United States Dressage Federation (USDF) competitions and local Schooling level dressage competitions are over, your United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Group Member Organization (GMO) Award Banquets have taken place, the distribution of year-end awards, ribbons and special trophies have been handed out, you might be looking forward to the upcoming holidays, and your horse is looking to a break from competition. The (USDF) holds its own Annual Convention where not only the business of the United States Dressage Federation is discussed but a Salute Gala & Annual Award Banquet takes place. These events generally happen over 3 days with additional USDF and United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) closed group meetings and official educational sessions take place on days before or after the general convention business.

If you are a member of a GMO, you are generally a member of that GMO so you and your horse may be recognized and receive awards and ribbons at your individual Award Banquet, or you may attend educational events and clinics held in your GMO's geographical area. Your GMO serves you if you are showing at the Schooling Show and Recognized (national) level of competitions. If you show at the National level at USDF Recognized Competitions, you are most likely also a USDF Participating Member (PM), so that you and your horse may show at USDF Regional Competitions as well as qualify for the USDF National Competitions where competitors gather to compete against other riders throughout the entire United States.

If you wish to take a deeper dive into dressage and the historical importance of this sport, you can go to the USDF Website, and access the hundreds of educational opportunities afforded you as a Group Member of the USDF.

Each year when the USDF Convention takes place, it sends out invitations to each GMO to send a delegate that may attend. That delegate will have an assigned number of votes, determined by the number of members your GMO has on September 1st. These votes are used to vote on open USDF Board of Director positions, committee chair positions and any proposed rule changes that affect the general USDF membership and therefore you as a GMO member.

I attended this year's 2023 USDF Annual Convention as a GMO and Participating Member (PM). I have represented various GMOs in Michigan in the past, but this trip was purely an information and educational opportunity for me.

I am a L Graduate of the USDF and attended the different featured educational events including open meetings, forums, and educational presentations as well as receptions and any offsite parties.

I'd like to share some of my observations of the different council forums, featured educational sessions and breakout meetings I attended. The following are my thoughts (bullet points):

- The USDF Region 2 Meeting, and these are some of the topics discussed. Region 2 which includes Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin have a current membership of 3,610 down from 4,564 in 2019. The Catherine B Jacob Schooling Show Award Program awarded 51 awards in 2023 and will continue the awards program in 2024. There was discussion regarding the Junior and Young Rider program which will be held in Traverse City July 30-Aug 4, 2024. Discussion regarding fundraising and obtaining a new Chef d'equip was reviewed with a goal of \$13,000, which will cover entries, stabling,

tack stalls, golf cart and chef expenses, etc., for the riders and their horses.

- Administrative Council Open Forum – Committee Reports were presented and proposed bylaws discussed pertaining to the inner workings of the USDF offices and their employees.
- Each GMO is responsible to annually elect or appoint from its membership a delegate to the USDF for a term of not less than one year and notify USDF of that member before August 31st.
- 2023 USDF GMO Committee reported on its accomplishments during 2023 including ways to encourage participating and business members also becoming members of their local GMO. Discussion of a new GMO Volunteer VIP Program to recognize GMO Grassroot Volunteers.
- The Historical Recognition Committee Report discussed the nomination of suitable candidates for the USDF Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Award and Members of Distinction and Roemer Foundation. An announcement of the USDF 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Sally Davenport, and two members recognized as the USDF 2023 Members of Distinction Beth Jenkins and Brook Irving-Martz.
- The Nominating Committee reported on its the pros and cons of obtaining GMO delegate candidates from all USDF GMOs in a timely manner and communicating the benefits of attending the convention.
- The Freestyle Committee discussed its accomplishments of 2023: the freestyle roundtable webinar held in January 2023 was attended by over 300 members with takeaways shared on the USDF's YourDressage.
- The Judges Committee Report discussed the 2023 objectives and accomplishments including 19 CE Dressage Judging Programs held throughout the US. The L Program Committee finalized a new remote program, "Focus on Collectives," which can be presented over Zoom or in a classroom setting.
- Two handouts on Dressage Seat Equitation Classes were developed and available on the USDF website and through YourDressage.

2024 Objectives

- Provide educational opportunities for all levels of Judges and L Graduates through the USDF CE Programs.
- Host a judge's roundtable via Zoom over the winter.
- Streamline communication between working groups involved in judging, judge training, and test writing, including education, freestyle, and sport horses.
- Monitor complaints about judges submitted by USDF members.
- L Program Committee Report and 2024 objectives:
- Continue to develop and enhance the USDF L Education Program website to supplement what is presented in the classroom setting and provide CE for L graduates and USEF-licensed dressage judges.
- Work with the Judges Committee to carry on with "The Judge's Box" in the USDF Connection Magazine to further open communication and promote educational opportunities.
- Continue discussion with competition managers to promote their support of the L Program Part 2 sessions.
- Host a Zoom meeting for L participants and candidates to answer questions and listen to suggestions to enhance the program.
- Technical Delegate Committee Report and 2024 Objectives.
- Build our TD public relations and communication efforts to educate competitors, judges, and competition management about the role of TD.
- Continue to develop new and update existing educational learning modules.

Many updates to USEF Rule changes were discussed, too many for me to list. I suggest every competitor download the USEF Rule Book from the app store and read the GR and DSG rules thoroughly. If you compete, I suggest you contact the TD at your competition before you show to discuss if you have a piece of equipment that you have any concern. For example, a competitor at the National Show was disqualified for a saddle pad that had a sponsor logo that was larger than the allowed area. Are your unconventional spurs legal; is your bit and bridle legal; is the color of your coat, shirt, or breeches legal?

These are all questions that the TD will be able to answer or clarify for you. You have probably been “checked” by a ring steward after a ride. Do you know that they will no longer be placing a finger in your horse’s mouth to check your bit? If there is a question about whether it is legal, the TD will meet you at your stall and observe the bit in question. One third of competitors will continue to be checked with an estimated 50% of bits observed by the TD as they walk through the stabling areas. If a TD finds a bit or piece of equipment is illegal, they will speak with the rider/trainer/groom or leave a note to contact them regarding the item.

While attending the Board of Governors (BOG) General Assembly, these were some of my observations:

- Adult Program Committee Report objectives and accomplishments.
- Increase the awareness of the GMO Education Initiative and grant opportunities, execute a GMO outreach to determine how best to assist GMO members and promote programs. 7 GMO Education Initiative programs were accepted and approved for 2023. USDF questions why GMOs are not requesting grants available to them for hosting educational opportunities.
- Increase awareness of USDF education opportunities including the Virtual education event “The Purpose of the Movements” in October 2023.
- Develop topics for virtual education series.
- Work with GMOs to identify education chairs.
- USDF Treasurer forwarded a proposal for the USDF Board of Governors approval.
- The USDF Executive Board recommended member dues increase for the 2025 membership year, effective December 1, 2024. To maintain a healthy budget and cash flow to support budgeted member activities and benefits over the next 5 years the proposed dues increases are needed to offset the impact of inflation on operating costs.
- Almost every area will be affected by the proposed fee increases, from Participating membership fees, GMO fees, horse registration, to qualifying fees and convention fees will be affected.

I recommend if you are a participating member, you renew now at a 5 year or life membership level to avoid the increase in dues. I renewed my 5-year

participating membership at \$360 which will go up to \$ 400 in 2025 or \$110 per year in 2025, up from \$90 per year in 2024.

Meet the Members-Amanda Cramer

How long have you been riding: I have ridden off and on since I was little. My first pony was nicknamed "Blubberbutt," because he was so round. I have dabbled in a few styles of riding over the years- Western and English Equitation and Pleasure, Trail, Cowboy Dressage, Classical Dressage, and now Western Dressage.

Tell us about your horse: Jabez is a 5 year old Appaloosa/ Quarter Horse that I am leasing. He made a career change from Western Pleasure to Western Dressage over the last 5 months under the careful guidance of Karley Vanwormer (True Equestrian) and Karen Fulcher (Mindset Equestrian). He's a super quirky and fun horse with a ton of try. Everyone at the barn jokes he's turned into a dressage diva. He prefers to work alone, has a phenomenal mare stare and has mastered the pinned ears when someone else rides with us, even if it's his best friend.

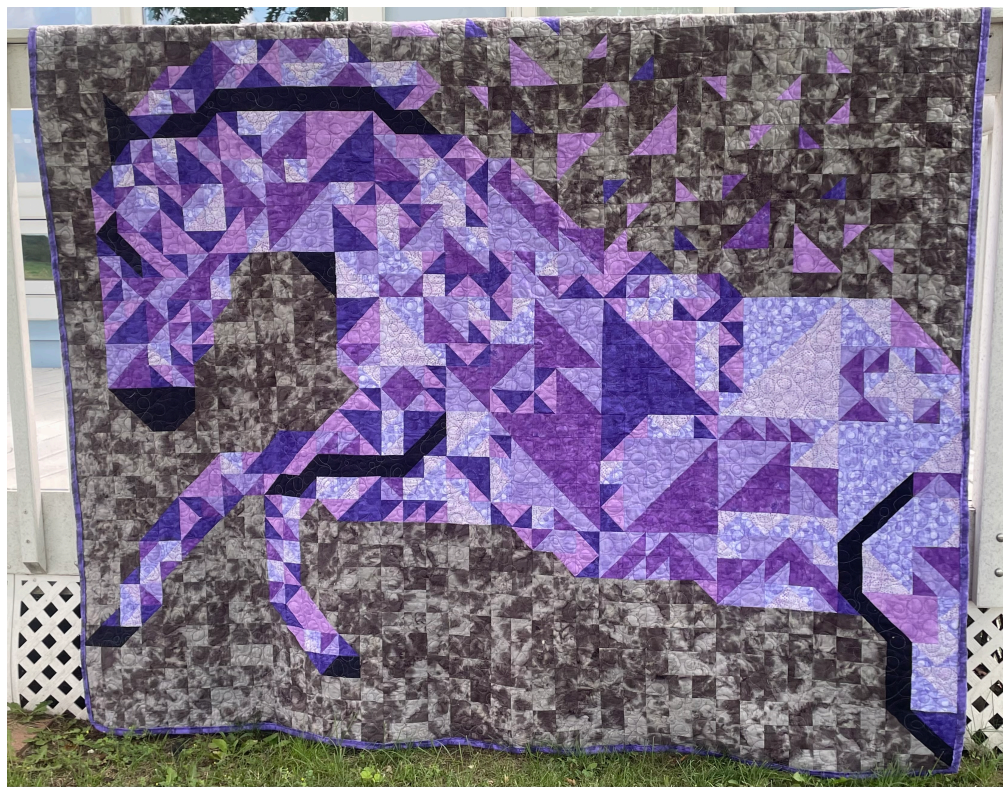


Do you have any horsey goals? My goal for this show season is to finish the requirements to earn my Michigan Western Dressage bronze medal. I also plan to continue furthering my education in both ridden education with Mindset Equestrian as well as on the ground education. I am dabbling in Masterson Method and always trying to learn new things to keep my partner happy and healthy.

I also want to continue to be a voice for people who feel stuck in a discipline because of lack of trainers in their area. Mindset Equestrian is based in North Carolina and I take virtual dressage lessons with her weekly. Excellent trainers

who match your mindset and values can be found to learn from, even if they are not local.

What do you like to do outside of riding? I don't have a lot of free time but what when I have some I can be found quilting, sewing or reading.



March is Traumatic Brain Injury Month

By: Alexandra Pollack

Did you know that March is Traumatic Brain Injury month? The Journal of Neurological Focus determined that 45.2 percent of TBI in adults resulted from horseback riding. The next closest sports were soccer and football at just 20.2 percent. Horses & head safety are clearly a must, especially for a sport that is considered non-contact! What can we do to keep ourselves safe but still enjoy the sport we love without living in bubble wrap? Here are some top tips from Charles Owens:

"The maximum useful lifespan of a riding helmet is five years, from the date of first wear, depending on frequency of use. Even if you haven't been in an accident with your helmet, it's important to replace it after it expires past this time. This is due to natural wear and tear on the materials. If your helmet suffers any kind of impact, no matter how small, its protective qualities will be compromised. You should replace your helmet before riding again. Lastly, a riding helmet should fit snug on your head. If your helmet ever becomes too loose or too tight, it's time for a new one."

I get it, helmets have gone from drab to fab in the last few years, and everyone is jumping on a brand band wagon. For example, I would love to rock a glittery Samshield Custom Premium Helmet. Alas my egg head will only ever fit properly into a Charles Owens. Don't shoot for a brand, shoot for the perfect fit. Most brands now have so many fashionable customization options that the world is your oyster! Trying on your helmet in store with a professional will ensure you receive the best fit for a price within any budget!

Happy Riding!

Meet the Board- Katie Bratschi

Position on the Board: Secretary and Membership Chair

How long have you been a member of MDA: This is my second year riding with MDA and first year on the board.

How long have you been riding: My parents made the mistake of taking me to "Pony Preschool" when I was 4 and I've been riding ever since. I didn't start learning to ride "correctly" until I was around 15 when I finally cracked said parents and purchased a horse of my own.

Do you ride Classical or Western Dressage: I ride Classical, but I would love to dip my toe into the Western side.

What got you interested in Dressage: My instructor loved Dressage. She saw my long legs and said, “You simply HAVE to try Dressage.” I did a couple lessons and instantly fell in love. I really enjoy that any horse can benefit from Dressage, and I am a huge fan of non-traditional breeds strutting their stuff in the square!



Tell us about your horse(s): My current Dressage mount is a 6-year-old Morgan gelding named Chief. He is a spunk and a half, but he loves to work and keeps me honest in my riding. He has a very personal fear of puddles and a suspicion about eating apples (lol). We are showing Training Level this season and fingers crossed we try a 1st level debut!

I also have a 17-year-old Miniature/Shetland mare named Tessa. While she’s much too small to ride, we have competed in Driven Dressage! Maybe MDA can add this in one day (hint hint).

What has been your most memorable moment as a member of MDA: My most memorable moment so far was

showing last season. It was a lot of firsts for Chief and I, including our first show together (his first ever), our first Dressage test, our first canter class, etc. and I was so happy to enjoy them all in such a welcoming group.

What would you tell someone considering joining MDA: Do it!!! There is nothing better than learning how to connect with your horse and show off your progress than doing it with a group of like-minded horse people.



Clinics 101

By Mykal Roth

There are some wonderful clinics happening this year across the state. Clinics are a great way to expand your knowledge base. They give riders an opportunity to learn from world class riders from across the country, or local trainers that may be inaccessible for a multitude of reasons. Whatever the case may be, clinics can offer a lot to the horse and rider. If this is your first season participating in a clinic, or it's been some time since your last one, here are some things I have found helpful to keep in mind when attending:

Preparation is key!

Like most events in the horse world, everything begins with preparation. Ensuring you and your horse are physically fit and mentally prepared enough to attend a clinic is critical to a successful experience. Once you have found a clinic to attend, reach out to the organizer and ask questions about things that aren't provided in the clinic description. These questions may include: Is stabling available or do you need to work out of your trailer? How many riders and auditors are expected to participate? Will there be an arena to lunge your horse if needed? How intense are the lessons, i.e. what fitness level is required for you and your horse? These things matter, and no one knows your horse better than you. Tying your horse to the trailer all day may not work for your mount. If your horse is green or not used to seeing crowds of people, you may want to attend a schooling show prior to the clinic to get them used to a more charged atmosphere. You could also ask the organizer if you can come in the night before/arrive early to acclimate to the venue. It can be a bummer to spend your whole lesson trying to settle your horse and not working on the things you planned.

Proper Attire:

Opinions on this topic differ depending on who you talk to. The more traditional horseman will tell you to wear neutral, non-distracting colors. Others will be right on board with your hot pink saddle pad and polos matching your shirt. Regardless of color scheme, make sure your clothes are clean and neat. Your shirt should have a collar, your pants a belt, and your boots polished.

Regarding your horse, come to the lesson turned out like you were attending a horse show. This means they should be bathed or thoroughly groomed. Manes and tails need to be clean and neatly trimmed. Though not necessary, braiding the mane gives a more polished option. All tack should be clean and oiled.

Be on time!

I cannot stress this enough. If you are not stabling overnight, plan to get to the venue with plenty of time to check in with the organizer, acclimate your horse, and get ready to ride. Lessons are generally run back-to-back, so if you are

late, you may miss your ride time. Ask the organizer if the clinician would prefer you warm up in the ring before the previous ride is completed, or if there is an alternate warm up area available.

Be honest about your riding ability and your horse's training level.

Clinicians only get a short period of time to work with you. If you are currently riding 1st level, don't ask them to teach you flying changes. Pick something that is preventing you from moving to the next level or a movement that you feel is good, but has room to become great. Luckily, dressage clinics typically have individual lessons, compared to some other disciplines that offer group lessons. With the individual lesson, if you happen to misjudge your level, you are most likely not going to get over-faced like you could with jumping. One more thing that seems obvious, but if you are new to clinics, you may be too intimidated to ask. If you or your horse need a short break, **DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK FOR ONE.** You will do more harm by pushing your horse past their fitness level than to simply ask for a walk break.

Be prepared, but flexible with your goals.

Come to the clinic having a goal of what you want to learn or work on. At the beginning of your ride, the clinician usually asks you to tell them about your horse, training, and future ambitions. Take this time to also tell them what you are struggling with, and what you hope to accomplish at the clinic. That being said, be flexible in what you want to work on. Several factors can come into play; your horse may be having an off day and need to go easy, or the clinician may see a gap in your training that needs to be addressed before they can move you on. Enjoy the journey and don't get bogged down if you must go backwards in order to move forward.

Have a videographer or a note taker available to record your ride.

You are going to have a lot of information thrown at you in a short amount of time. If you can have someone video your lesson to allow you to watch and listen to it again, I highly recommend it. If you cannot film it, see if someone would be willing to take notes for you, or bring a journal that you can write down everything you worked on and the exercises you used. I write down the exercise we did, what the purpose was, and what result we were looking for.

Lastly, be courteous and kind to the organizers, fellow riders, and volunteers.

The organizers spent a lot of time and money to set up this learning opportunity. Volunteers are working hard to help make sure everything runs smoothly for the clinician, riders, and auditors. Be sure to thank them for their efforts. All the riders are there to learn, but for some, a clinic can be intimidating. Be their cheering section! Kindness goes a long way and it costs nothing.

We'd love to hear from our members on any tips I may have missed. Give us a shout on Facebook with your thoughts. Cheers to a great clinic season!

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

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

****Booths still available. Please don't wait! Last day to sign up is April 6****

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.)

Current lectures include:

Joint Health & Regenerative Medicine with Dr. Oliai from Hadley Hills Equine

Equine Physiotherapy with Mary Lynn Coughlin

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 \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)

We hope to see you there!

Lecturer Bios:

Hadley Hills Equine

Dr. Roya Oliai

Veterinarian

Roya joined the practice in May 2019. She is a graduate of Michigan State University where she earned her B.S. with honors in Animal Science and went on to complete her veterinary education. While earning her DVM she focused on equine medicine and was president of the MSU chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP). Roya grew up in Grand Rapids, and spent her time shadowing the equine vet, along with finding any opportunity she could to be around horses. In her free time, she enjoys riding hunt seat with her OTTB mare. When she's not riding, she enjoys gardening, hiking, and refinishing furniture. She lives in Grand Blanc with her husband and son, their retired racing greyhound Enzo, and two cats! Her clinical interests include reproduction, surgery, dentistry, and lameness.



Equine Physiotherapist:

Mary Lynn Coughlin, MHS,PT, MMCP has over 40 yr of clinical experience in Physical Therapy using Osteopathic Manual Therapy, Neuromuscular Re Education, Proprioceptive Balance Training and related techniques for treatment of orthopedic and neurologic issues in children and adults. Certified as a Masterson Method Practitioner in 2021, she has begun applying her skills to horses as well as humans. A lifelong rider, she has been starting horses and competing to Second Level dressage over the last 30 years. Contact her at mlodcoughlin@yahoo.com or on Messenger: Mary Lynn C for more information.



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

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.

Sign up for the Cavaletti Clinic at Aberdeen can be completed at <http://www.aberdeenfarm.weebly.com/>

Or you can check out the Aberdeen Facebook page for more information.

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.claraetzeldressage.com/clinic-registration>

April 27-28 JJ Tate

JJ Tate is coming to Rattlewood Farm in Oxford, Michigan

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.

June 22nd & 23rd Working Equitation Clinic

Thistle Run is putting on a Working Equitation 101 clinic at Heart Pond Stables in Williamston!

Clinician Meghan Truppner has countless regional, national and Canadian championship wins in Working Eq as well as her USDF bronze and silver medal.

Entry Link: <https://bluehorseentries.com/events/working-equitation-101-clinic-with-meghan-truppner>

"My focus & passion is bio-mechanics, how horses think & bridging the learning gap between horse/rider. I have done cavaletti clinics both virtual and in person, and am a curious nature so I am always learning new ways to bring harmony to the sports. I firmly believe that while Working Equitation is a different sport, it has improved every horse I have come into contact with." Riding spots are limited, if interested please email ThistleRunEq@gmail.com for more information.

WORKING EQ 101 CLINIC!

WITH MEGHAN TRUPPNER



Tentative Schedule Of Events

June 21-23, 2024 @ Heart Pond Stables, Williamston Michigan

Friday Evening:

A *riders only* meeting with Meghan! Riders to go over the next 2 days of riding & questions!

Saturday & Sunday:

8:00am Auditor Lecture
9:00am Riding Group 1
11:00am Riding Group 2
1:00pm Lunch
1:30pm Riding group 3
3:30pm Riding group 4

PRICING

Riding

One Riding Session: \$170
Saturday & Sunday Riding: \$340
*All riders audit for free both Saturday & Sunday.
Only 4 riders per group.

Auditing

Auditing One Day: \$30
Auditing Two Days: \$50

Stabling

Overnight Stabling: \$60
*All riders will be tie to trailer unless approved for overnight stabling



-All riders AND auditors will be required to sign waivers.
-Riders to provide a proof of neg coggins and vaccine record.
-ASTM Certified Helmets to be worn while mounted

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

Catherine B. Jacobs Schooling Show Award

All MDA shows are eligible for the the Catherine B. Jacobs Schooling Show Award! Region 2 has generously put together this award to allow local competitors' scores to be recognized on a regional level without leaving their home area! Put yourself in the running to take home some USDF ribbons! Complete guidelines and registration form is available via the link

below: <https://www.usdfregion2.org/catherine-b-jacob-schooling-show-awards-program.html>

Note that you must be signed up for the program BEFORE you ride your tests in order for the scores to count.

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.

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: Mykal Roth (mykal@midwestdressage.org)

- Professional Advisory: Alexandra Pollack (alexandra@midwestdressage.org)
- Year End Banquet: Meghan Connolly (meghan@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.