

Midwest Dressage Association  
Newsletter  
October, 2017



Once again the end of the season is upon us and we are left asking that eternal question...“Where did all my money go?” It always seems that the season starts and ends as quickly as the shows fees exit our bank accounts. I’ve had a lot of non-horse people ask me over the years “Do you win money at your shows?” And I always reply “No” with a tinge of irritation and embarrassment. I spend thousands of dollars on entry fees, tack and equipment, membership fees, vet and farrier bills and for what...a \$5.00 ribbon. It doesn’t seem to make sense and trust me, when you try to explain it to your accountant you feel the need to immediately fill out your application for a

padded room with a view! But honestly, what I get out of the long, expensive hours at shows is a lot more than a \$5.00 ribbon. Permit me to wax-poetic for a moment: In those moments tacking up my horse – my partner – I think back on the hours that have gone into making it to this place – this place of judgment – so that I can prove to myself that I am unlike most people. I am brave enough to climb aboard a 1,200 pound animal with a mind of his own and attempt to work in perfect harmony with him. I am brave enough to ride in front of some of the best judges and horsemen in the country and allow them to pass judgment on my abilities and my horses’.

And at the end of a long day of riding test after test and trying to bring out the best in my horse and myself I sit quietly in his stall. I watch the sun sink down below the trees and feel his nose brush against my ear and I feel his breath. Suddenly the reason for working so hard for a \$5.00 ribbon becomes clear: It is the unrelenting journey to become a part of something greater than yourself – it’s striving to allow your horse to let you be a part of him. And it is a never-ending journey with really no ending. Just the opportunity to be part of something far greater – and far more beautiful than yourself.

-Allison





### **Meeting Notes: Board of Directors October Meeting...**

The October Board of Directors meeting was held at the Lyon's Den in Waterford, MI. Discussion revolved around finding candidates to run for the

board as it currently has vacant positions. The board would like to find qualified candidates before November 10 in order to send their biographical information ahead of the general membership meeting.

The board also voted Tonya Grant to be its representative at the USDF Convention which will be held at the Kentucky Horse Park in November 29-December 2. However the board also decided that it would be a great opportunity for as many board members as possible to attend.

Preparations for the year-end banquet were discussed. As a reminder, the banquet will be November 19 at Addison Oaks Park. Doors will open at noon.

The date for the spring Boot Camp will be April 14-15, 2018.

Award recipients were voted on for the Hall of Fame award as well as the Lifetime Member award.

Our next meeting will take place on November 1, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Lyon's Den in Waterford.

"It says here that this is *2400 Denier* ripstop turnout blanket with triple reinforced stitching and a *lifetime warranty*; I guess that means *you can't destroy it in a week.*"



**CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.**



[www.theideaoforder.com](http://www.theideaoforder.com)

## Have You Renewed Your Membership Yet???

While memberships are accepted throughout the year, why not get an early start? As an MDA member you gain greater access to MDA clinics and functions and usually at a reduced rate! Some clinics, like the popular Boot Camp, are only available to MDA members. Get your applications in now and remember – it also makes a

great Christmas gift for the horse-lover in the family!

*"Never thank yourself,  
always thank the horses  
for the happiness and joy  
we experience through  
them.*

*-Hans H.E. Isenbart*

# *MDA is challenging members to a Battle of the Baskets 2017!*



*Get your barn together and create  
a winning basket for this year's  
Awards Banquet!*

Please join our "The Battle of the Baskets "  
Our challenge to you! Last year we had many heated bidding wars.

Come join an afternoon of fun.

You may bring a basket to the banquet or contact Denise,  
(586) 463-7741 and she will pick it up

2017  
Midwest Dressage Association  
Annual Awards Banquet

The Buhl Estate at Addison Oaks  
1480 W. Romeo Rd., Leonard, MI 48367  
Sunday, November 19, 2017  
11:30a.m. doors open  
Lunch will be served at 12:00

The beautiful, historic Buhl Estate has the look and feel of a European country club. Come enjoy a beverage by a working fireplace and take in the Christmas decorations.  
Mimosa's and Bloody Mary's are available (cash bar.)

Our guest speaker will be Jessica Younk DVM

Please join our "The Battle of the Baskets "  
Our challenge to you! Last year we had many heated bidding wars.  
Come join an afternoon of fun.  
You may bring a basket to the banquet or contact Denise,  
(586) 463-7741 and she will pick it up

\$30.00 per person or reserve a table for 10 for \$300.00

Send your check made payable to the MDA with the names of the people in your party to: Denise Gentile, 38249 Lesha, Clinton Township, MI. 48036  
If you have questions call Denise at (586) 463-7741

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Additional names \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

# TRIBUTE<sup>®</sup>

## EQUINE NUTRITION

MDA is participates in the Tribute Partner's Program. This program provides funding to non-profits for educational events. Members can participate by donating the proof of purchase tags off of Tribute<sup>®</sup> feedbags or by submitting invoices of bulk Tribute<sup>®</sup> feed to MDA.

If you are sending copies of invoices, please black out sensitive information like your name, address, credit card info and phone number. Send your documentation to:

Midwest Dressage Association

C/o Michigan Equine Therapy

29155 Northwestern Hwy #540

Southfield, MI 48034



## *Preparing For Cold Weather*

*By Catherine Bird, Equine Wellness Magazine*

The vision of horses frolicking in a fresh blanket of powdery snow brings a smile to any horse lover's face. Devoid of bugs and unrelenting summer heat, winter can be a refreshing change for both horse and human. However, cold weather can also bring different challenges and worries. By considering the following eight points, though, you can avert many problems and enjoy your winter wonderland – worry-free.

**1. Water.** All life needs it to survive. While horses can subsist on ice and snow, their water intake is greatly reduced which can lead to dehydration, weight loss or impaction colic.

Frozen water buckets or tanks are not desirable and require someone to break the ice up numerous times a day. If possible, provide water warmed to 45 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit (10 to 20°C) to encourage your

horse to meet his water needs. There are numerous tank or bucket warmers on the market that beat chopping ice in the freezing cold.

If you are providing warmed water and your horse is still reluctant to drink, consider adding celery seeds to his feed. A teaspoon of this seed per day often provides enough encouragement, and it doubles as a good winter digestive tonic that also assists with stiff arthritic joints in older horses.

Add a slice or two of fresh ginger to one of the water tanks. The hint of the herb will permeate the water, providing a warm and comforting drink when your horse chooses water from that source.

**2. Warm winter coat.** A natural coat is nature's best insulator and a horse's first line of defense against cold weather. If a horse is rugged or blanketed or kept in a warm barn, he will not grow an adequate length of coat to protect him against the elements. Since proper nutrition also plays a role in coat condition, ensure your current diet is up to par

and that your horse also receives Omega-3 fatty acids.

Of course, if your horse has come from a warmer climate and has not yet acclimatized to the cold, it will be more difficult to stay warm and maintain comfort. In this case, wait until the following year so he has time to grow a good coat.

**3. A few extra pounds.** At this time of year, a little extra weight is a plus since body fat plays a vital role in insulating any equine against the cold. In his article, "Condition scoring for your horse", Craig H. Wood from the Animal Sciences Department at the University of Kentucky suggests a body condition score of six or seven in cold to very cold climates. This will help a horse survive and provide a reservoir of energy to generate heat.

The chart below outlines the characteristics of the desired body condition scores. To help keep condition on a horse, try fenugreek seeds. They are an appetite stimulant and benefit imbalances in the respiratory tract. Add a tablespoon of fenugreek

seeds to a feed once a day; however, because they are difficult to digest, steep the seeds in boiling water to soften before adding them and the water to your horse's feed.

**4. A healthy digestive system.** This is your horse's natural heat producer, so it's important to support this system. Providing free-choice grass hay helps horses generate more metabolic energy, which in turn helps them stay warm when exposed to cold weather. Contrary to popular belief, forage generates more heat than grain.

"Research has shown that even though hay is lower in digestible energy than grains, it allows the horse to generate more body heat due to the fermentation process in the large intestinal tract," explains Dr. Judy Marteniuk, DVM, from Michigan State University.

**5. The immune system.** Horses, as well as humans, are more susceptible to illness during the winter months, and like us, they too can benefit from a little prevention. Garlic is a valuable immune boosting

herb and a tablespoon every second day is enough to strengthen the body's defenses through the colder months.

Echinacea root brewed into a decoction is often good to start your horses on, especially if he is new to a cold environment or has a history of respiratory complaints. If you wish to use Echinacea to build up resistance to disease, it is important you obtain the dried root of the plant from a reliable source as this part of the plant has a longer efficacy in the body. If you are using the leaf, for maximum effectiveness, it is best used when you first notice infection and for a duration of three to four weeks.

**6. Shelter, don't smother.** Do not underestimate the benefits of a natural windbreak or simple shelter. Build your protection so your horse can come and go freely, having the choice to take refuge if the weather becomes extreme.

If you have a closed barn, allow for plenty of ventilation without drafts, where your horse can move around and remain dry.

Manure and urine-soaked bedding needs to be removed daily from enclosed spaces to avoid the build up of ammonia concentrates. According to veterinarian Dr. Karen Hayes, some ammonia levels in stalls can reach 450ppm. OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) considers 50ppm of ammonia concentrates to be harmful to humans.

In a closed environment, any equine appreciates the scent of aromatherapy. Essential oils help cheer up the barn-kept horse and also act as negative ion generators to inhibit the spread of airborne pathogens. Simply waft an uncapped bottle of grapefruit essential oil, sometimes referred to as "brain sunshine", under your horse's nose to lift his spirits. Or try eucalyptus and bergamot, which are uplifting as well as antiviral – to help build your horse's resistance to 'cold' viruses.

**7. Special care when exercising.** When working horses in cold weather, warm them up slowly before asking for serious work. It is also a benefit to give a good brisk massage

to warm you both up before even saddling. Sweeping effleurage and circular frictions will generate heat and warm up the muscles.

Most importantly, when you are finished and unsaddled, dry your equine partner off. Your horse needs to be cooled down thoroughly and brushed so the fluffy hair is able to trap air and keep him warm. Flat, wet hair clings to the body and allows body heat to escape.

**8. A treatment plan for common ailments.** During the colder months, respiratory tract infections tend to be an issue. Keep herbs such as elder, elecampane, mullein, and yarrow on hand in case your horse needs this sort of support.

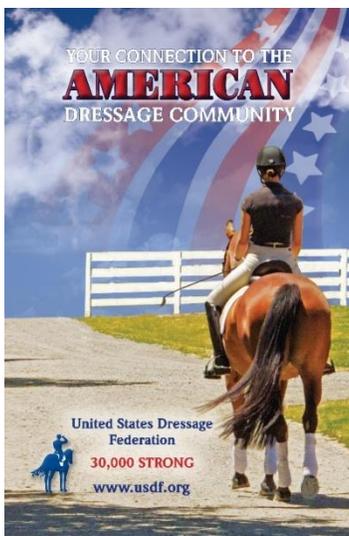
- Elder flowers contain tannins and mucilage which are very soothing to irritated mucosal tissue.
- Elecampane should be considered if your horse is afflicted with a cough as it soothes the respiratory tract and helps to eliminate congestion from the lungs.
- Mullein is more for the wet coughs or when your horse may be sore and irritated in the respiratory tract.
- Yarrow helps to dilate the peripheral blood vessels that become contracted in the cold and assists the body in maintaining a healthy warmth. It also addresses mild fevers or circulatory congestion.

All these herbs can be steeped into a tea mixture and added to feed. If combining two or three herbs, use ½ to 1 cup of

mixed herbs daily for horses on the mend or twice daily for horses that need that little extra support.

Simplicity is key to herbal treatments for horses. Usually it takes a synergistic combination of only three or four herbs in a daily regimen to help your horse overcome most of the obstacles the cold weather creates within the body.

So, as the snow begins to fly and the temperatures creep toward freezing, don't worry. Just keep in mind the eight considerations for cold weather health and enjoy your winter wonderland. Remember, the bugs and heat are just around the corner.



## **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 worksheets/requests to:

Will Davis II

9518 Brookway Ct.

Goodrich, MI 48438

Contact # 810 287 2011

## *Classifieds...*

### Horses for Sale or Lease

Several experienced dressage horses available for partial or full lease at Brilliant Reflection Farm in Ortonville, MI. Contact us for more information at blondmane@yahoo.com or 248-670-9031.

<http://www.brilliantreflectionfarm.com/horses-available-for-lease.html>

### Tack/Equipment

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

### Stable Listings

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

Training, Lessons.

989-777-7471

[pam@bluewaterdressagestables.com](mailto:pam@bluewaterdressagestables.com)

[www.bluewaterdressagestables.com](http://www.bluewaterdressagestables.com)

#### **Brilliant Reflection Farm**

Brian & Barbra Reis

490 Rissman Lane

Ortonville, MI 48462

248-670-9031

[blondmane@yahoo.com](mailto:blondmane@yahoo.com)

[www.brilliantreflectionfarm.com](http://www.brilliantreflectionfarm.com)

Lessons, Boarding, Rehab, Schooling Shows, Indoor and Outdoor arenas

#### **Allison McKenzie Sporthorses**

Training, Lessons, Breeding, Boarding

9867 Sharon Hollow Road

Manchester, MI 48158

(734) 276-8967 \* [amsporthorses@yahoo.com](mailto:amsporthorses@yahoo.com)

#### **Lone Willows Farm**

Ingrid Baranski

5781 Hessen Road

Casco, MI 48064

586-306-6275

[www.lonewillowfarms.net](http://www.lonewillowfarms.net)

#### **High Point Farm**

2394 Noble Road

Oxford, MI

248-410-0684

Alison Allen

[www.highpointdressage.com](http://www.highpointdressage.com)

All day turnout and quality feed

stalls cleaned daily

Lesson plans available

#### **Deisig Dressage**

Janelle Deisig

7330 Curtis Road

Frankenmuth, MI 48734

989-598-6850

[Janelledeisig@yahoo.com](mailto:Janelledeisig@yahoo.com)

[www.deisigdressage.com](http://www.deisigdressage.com)

Dressage training, sales, trailer-in lessons

**Freestyle Farm**

Lisa Caloia BHSAI  
1730 N. Oxford Rd.  
Oxford, MI 48371  
248-462-2949

Boarding, Lessons, Clinics

Oversized stalls, large grass pastures,  
indoor and outdoor arenas, heated groom room, climate  
controlled observation room.

**Sky High Farm**

1759 Smith Road  
Lapeer, MI. 48446  
248-890-2426

jenmaull@yahoo.com

<http://skyhighfarm.vpweb.com>

Boarding & Dressage Training

**The Levy Farm**

Shawn Ozker Ragsdale  
2915 Casey Rd, Metamora, MI 48455  
248 318 0725

Training/ Lessons/Clinics, Novice- FEI

**Reflection Arabians**

Jim & Nancy Lapeer  
3332 Lake George Rd.  
Dryden, MI

**Summerwood**

Teah Weyers Bankes  
3589 Fenton Road  
Hartland, MI 48353  
248-887-3819 or 248-408-7842

Training – Grand Prix

Work with Pony Clubbers

**Visual Equestrian LLC**

Tonya and Carole Grant  
5390 Pleasant Hill Drive  
Fenton, MI 48430  
248-219-0410

Dressage Training, Sale Horses and Ponies,  
Pony Program, Clinics, Trailer-in Lessons

**Will Davis Training Center****Rattlewood Farms**

Oxford, MI  
810-287-2011

Boarding, Training, Lessons, Clinics with  
international trainers, home to Mid Michigan  
Dressage shows

## 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 McKenzie

*amsporthorses@yahoo.com*

Denise Gentile

*dar-den@comcast.net*

Tonya Grant

*Tonyagrants@visualequestrian.com*

Debbie Hannaford

*debbietimko@yahoo.com*

Beth Schaub

*beschlaub@frontier.com*

### **Committees**

**Awards** – Beth Schaub

**Membership** – Nancy Bryant

**Education** – vacant

**Banquet** – Denise Gentile

**Newsletter** – Allison McKenzie

**Historian** – Will Davis

**Directory** – Lisa Machala

**Social Media/Website** – Lisa Machala

**Volunteers** – vacant

**Marketing** – vacant

**Nominations** – vacant

**Merchandise** – Tonya Grant

**Professional Advisor** – vacant

# Classified Ads

Classified Ads must be submitted to the newsletter editor via email to [amsporthorses@yahoo.com](mailto:amsporthorses@yahoo.com) 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**

## Remaining MDA Calender Dates:

### November

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

19-MDA Annual Awards Banquet, Buhl Estate, Addison Oaks Park, Leonard MI

29 - Dec 2- USDF Annual Convention, Lexington KY <http://usdf.org/convention/>

### December

December 1-2- USDF Annual Convention, Lexington KY <http://usdf.org/convention/>

