



Midwest Dressage Association

March/April 2021

Here We Go...

And show season 2021 is here! It's time for those familiar routines to start – the packing of the tack trunks and trailers, the checking and double-checking for things like Coggins, boots, and clothing. The horses are almost done shedding and are starting to gleam in the sun (that big yellow ball in the sky – we live in Michigan so we don't see it for six months out of the year) and we've readied our training all winter.

The thing about the first show of the year is that you either love it or hate it. Some of our ponies are seasoned pros and pick up right where they left off. However some of them use the winter months to block the show ring out of their minds and then become conscientious objectors the first time that they set foot into the ring for the year. Then there are the overly emotional, anxiety-riddled horses who become feral jungle cats the minute they arrive at a show. I actually own that horse. I have the fire-breathing dragon that scares innocent bystanders and other competitors in the warm-up ring. I have been the person that had to apologize on behalf of my horse because it terrorized the villagers. I have sat in envy of other competitors who have warmed-up on their solid, quiet

and saintly horses. I own an anxious Thoroughbred and a Dastardly Pony (seriously – my pony's show name is The Dastardly Pony) so I embody patience. And that's really what it's all about – patiently embracing the process and the journey. Everyone's is different and everyone has different obstacles. But we do this because we love it. The thing that makes showing great is that horses are the great equalizer. We all are on our own path and on our own journey with our partners. So if you're on a steady-eddy or Evil Knieval on hooves, appreciate the process. Appreciate the time and above all, have fun.

I have a friend who, when he reads about my showing adventures and results, asks the same question: "But did you have fun?"

Yep – you bet I did!

-Allison



Saddle Up for USDF Education -By Jayne Ayers Region 2 Education Committee

Have you ever wished you could find a clear explanation of a confusing dressage term or see a video of a correct rein back or know more about equine nutrition?

All members of this club are also Group Members of the United States Dressage Federation, or USDF. Whether you are new to the sport or an experienced professional, USDF offers many opportunities for you to expand your knowledge of dressage. You can learn more about training theory, improve your eye, learn what the judge is looking for, get training tips, explore freestyle design, and much more.

There are in-person clinics and seminars, online programs, and a huge library of videos, articles, and podcasts. A program to recognize your educational efforts is called USDF University, which offers credit for each thing you do. USDF University also approves and promotes programs designed by other organizations, with topics pertaining to things like veterinary

issues, horse management, tack choices, and rider fitness. Links to all these are on the USDF website.

The biggest challenge might be to get comfortable with navigating the website. When you go exploring, some things can be accessed by anyone. If you want full access, you need to login. For the educational offerings on the site, the general search engine might not be your best next step. Instead, go to the Education tab. If you click on "Education Library" under "USDF University" or you get a new search engine, targeted to educational resources.

For instance, if you type in "Turn on the Haunches" you will get more than a dozen articles, podcasts, and videos on the subject. A few are full manuals, available for a charge from the USDF Store. The rest are free for you to enjoy right away. And you even get USDF education credits for those you view or listen to, automatically entered to your account! It's a quick, easy way to get targeted information on whatever aspects of dressage are new or challenging for you.

There are 26 Short Courses under another tab, with topics from flying changes to foal basics and scribe training, all under 20 minutes to complete, with education credit available if you choose to take a quiz or survey. Over a dozen longer Online Courses are also available, with more extensive topics like Lungeing, the Aids of the Rider, Materiale Classes, and Sports Psychology.

For in depth learning, USDF has quite of number of online webinars and in-person programs which need to be organized by a GMO or Region, and require advance sign up. Some are an hour long, some several full days. A few

are national in scope, like the annual Trainer's Conference and the Sport Horse Prospect Development Forum. Others are put on by Group Member Organizations (GMO), clubs like yours. The in-person ones may be held locally, but often are open to those willing to travel from other areas. If it is an online program, like the one on freestyle, it is often open to USDF members outside the sponsoring club. Checking in regularly with the USDF Website or with your Regional Newsletter or Facebook page is a great way to keep up with what is scheduled.

One example is the L Education Program, which is required of those wanting to become judges, but is even more popular with riders, trainers, and anyone else interested in knowing what the judge is looking for and how judging is done. It includes classroom sessions with hundreds of video examples, as well as live horse demonstrations. Any GMO can put one on. If three full weekends seems like too much to tackle, an online program, consisting of three one-hour sessions, called Taste of the L Program, is also available. That and the new remote access Musical Freestyle Program can be found under the Education tab, then clicking on Continuing Education in Dressage Judging.

Whether you are completely new to dressage or an experienced instructor, the educational opportunities available from USDF might be just the thing to help you on your way to success.

Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee Confirms No Overseas Spectators Allowed at Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

US Equestrian to provide enhanced on-site coverage and access to behind-the-scenes content for members throughout the duration of the Olympic and Paralympic Games

Lexington, Ky. – The Organizing Committee of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, in consultation with the International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee, Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Government of Japan, have announced that fans and spectators from overseas will not be allowed to attend the Games this summer due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and continued restrictions on international travel. While the decision is incredibly disappointing for our athletes, their supporters, and our staff, it is not entirely unexpected given the different stages of the pandemic occurring around the world.

US Equestrian will be uniquely positioned to provide extensive on-site and behind-the-scenes coverage, excluding Field of Play content, at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and will integrate interactive digital experiences with athletes and staff to connect and enhance the fan experience for those watching the competition from home. US Equestrian will call on members and fans to actively engage and participate in the coverage

campaigns in the lead up to and during the event to foster an atmosphere of team spirit and support for our athletes traveling to compete and inspire others in Tokyo. Competition broadcasts for the equestrian disciplines in the United States will be available on NBC and their affiliated network platforms, including NBC Sports Network, The Olympic Channel, and new streaming service Peacock, with a full broadcast schedule to be released in the coming weeks.

“Our first priority in Tokyo is to maximize performance on the Field of Play; integral to that is ensuring the welfare of our equine and human delegation. However, we also want to make sure we connect with those back in the U.S. whose support is so valuable. Those traveling to Tokyo will need to escape from the pressure cauldron that is an Olympic and Paralympic Games and often that involves being able to connect with family and friends,” said Will Connell, Director of Sport for US Equestrian. “The time difference between Tokyo and the U.S. presents challenges, but our staff are true champions when it comes to capturing and promoting our athletes maximizing their performance and developing innovative ways of connecting everyone together.”

Equestrian events at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games are scheduled to begin on July 24, 2021, and continue through August 7, 2021. The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games will begin on August 26, 2021, and continue through August 30, 2021. Comprehensive coverage of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be available on the US Equestrian website and social media platforms, as well as on USEF Network.



George Williams Young Professional Grant Fund



The purpose of the George Williams Young Professional Grant Fund is to support dressage professionals, ages 25-35, who are committed to the sport and have established businesses as instructors and trainers. Applicants

should have a strong desire to participate in continuing education opportunities, in order to provide higher-quality instruction to their students.

The amount of the grants can vary depending on the need and request of the applicants but will typically range from \$3,000 - \$5,000. At this time, one grant will be available each year to a qualified applicant chosen by an independent selection committee.

The online application form and all required documents must be submitted to The Dressage Foundation on or before June 1st of each year. A final decision will be announced by July 15th. The grant must be used for training and programs that fall after the grant deadline date of June 1st and within 2 years of that date.

Grant funding should be used for two purposes:

1. To receive training as a rider that is outside of your typical plan (for example, an intensive training time away from home or more lessons from your trainer) **AND**
2. To attend a formal instructor/trainer education program, such as the USDF Instructor/Trainer Program, L Education Program, or other event of your choice that is focused on the education of instructors/trainers.

Applicant Information:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident.
- Must have riding experience at 3rd Level or above. Preference

is given to applicants who have competition records at 3rd Level or above.

- Preference will be given to applicants who have started or completed the certification process through the USDF Instructor/Trainer Program.
- Must be committed to their dressage education, their clients, and their businesses. Applicants will be asked to present a brief business plan in the application.

Additional Grant Information:

- Funding cannot be used for competition entries, vet and/or farrier expenses, stabling fees, living expenses, or the purchase of a horse or equipment.
- An individual can only receive a grant from this Fund one time.
- The committee reserves the right to not award a grant in any given year if they determine that no candidate has met the criteria. Funds would then be held until the following year. The applications and discussions of the selection committee are confidential and their decisions are final.
- If the grant recipient is unable to attend the program specified in his/her application, The Dressage Foundation must be notified as soon as possible. Approval for a change in the use of funds is at the discretion of The Dressage Foundation and the grant selection committee.

About the Fund:

Wanting to honor Williams' lifelong commitment to the sport and

acknowledge his nine years as President of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF), Janna Dresing, Dr. Jeni Gaffney and Gardy Bloemers initiated the idea of this Fund in December 2018. Dresing shared, "We felt that George has given so much to the dressage community in all of his roles within the USDF, and that creating a scholarship in his name would help honor his commitment to the sport."

Williams was surprised with the news of the Fund at the USDF Salute Gala on December 1st, 2018. After the announcement, he said, "I am honored to have a Grant Fund in my name, which will have a goal of helping up-and-coming young equestrians. Thank you to all the donors."

TDF's President and CEO, Beth Baumert, shared, "Those of us who hold USDF dear will never forget George's many years of wise and steady leadership. His contribution to dressage is impossible to calculate, and he set a fine example for us all. It seems very fitting that this Fund will continue beyond his tenure, giving in his honor."

Marylal and Charlie Barnett Continuing Education Grants for Dressage Instructors



Individuals may apply for grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$1,500 to attend the USDF Instructor/Trainer Program workshops, pre-certification, and/or testing. Funding is available from TDF to provide up to six individual grants annually.

The online application form and all required documents must be submitted on or before the application deadline date of February 1 or July 1. The grant must be used for a USDF Instructor/Trainer Program that falls after the application due date and within 2 years of that date.

Additional Grant Information:

- Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident.
- Funding cannot be used for competition entries, vet and/or farrier expenses, or the purchase of a horse or equipment. Funding must be used for the event/training specified in the grant application.
- An instructor may receive this grant one time.

- The committee reserves the right to not award a grant in any given year if they determine that no candidate has met the criteria. Funds would then be held until the following year. The applications and discussions of the selection committee are confidential and their decisions are final.
- If the grant recipient is unable to attend the specified event/training, TDF must be notified as soon as possible. Approval for a change in the use of funds is at the discretion of TDF and the Grant Selection Committee.

This grant program is made possible by funding donated by Maryal and Charles Barnett (MI), who conducted some Estate Planning with TDF. Maryal is a long-time premier US Dressage Instructor and TDF's Chair of the Board. The Dressage Foundation is pleased and honored that she has arranged to "give back" to her beloved sport in this special way. Maryal states, "The future of dressage and the welfare of our horses is dependent on the quality of education that our professionals obtain. There were people in my life such as Violet Hopkins and Lowell Boomer who were instrumental in making education possible for me, and many others through their generosity and foresight. Lowell Boomer, along with many others, saw the importance of education; and they founded the USDF to unite and educate dressage enthusiasts. Violet Hopkins gave her farm, time and wisdom each summer to make the Vi Hopkins Seminar for Dressage Instructors possible for those of us

hungering for more knowledge. Now, it is my desire to give back to the sport that has given me such a rewarding and happy life. That is why I want to help to make it possible for other present and future dressage instructors/trainers to be able to obtain quality education through the Maryal and Charlie Barnett Continuing Education for Dressage Instructors Grants."



The next meeting of the Midwest Dressage Association will be Wednesday May 12 at 6:00pm. Please see the MDA Facebook page for details or contact Allison at amsportorses@yahoo.com

New Year, New Life...

I have always endeavored to make this newsletter my own, but yet as little about me as possible. But in this, my last year on the board and given the fact that I'm the President, I decided to give myself a little *carte blanche* in certain areas. So begins my little brainchild paying homage to the little ones that enter the world and have no idea what they will become when they get older. I am a sporthorse breeder and to that end, I spend a lot of time bringing foals into the world and preparing them for their lives as show horses. But before these little guys are even conceived hours of study goes into matching mares with stallions and envisioning the offspring that they could produce. Once bred, you begin an over eleven month journey with a mare as she cooks the angel and prepares to bring it into the world.

It all sounds pretty charming, right? Well, to a point it is. But have you ever lived with a woman who has been pregnant for eleven months? It's not so charming by about the tenth month and your mare is pretty much over the whole process and wants nothing more than to cause irreparable damage to anything and everyone around her. And by the eleventh month she'll try to eviscerate the next person that checks her teats or her vulva.

And this my friends is where mare #1 is at on my farm. We are days away from Maya foaling and while the stall is prepared and the monitors ready, nothing can ever prepare you for the game of cat and mouse that a pregnant mare will play with you surrounding the actual birth. She will wax, she will act uncomfortable – she will give you every

indication that tonight's the night and then five days later – and about ten minutes after you check her at 3:03am – she will foal.

I used to have a broodmare that refused to foal after midnight. If she hadn't foaled by midnight then she just wasn't going to do it that night. She did however have a nasty habit of foaling during a really good television show or playoff game – missing the Red Wings win the Stanley Cup was especially brutal one year. I also have a mare that prefers to make her offspring extra crispy and tries to go further and further past her due date every year. So far we're up to two weeks with her.

Breeding isn't for the faint of heart – and sometimes you need protective equipment. Last year a filly nailed my husband in the...groin...with her front foot during her initial vet inspection. Four months later when we loaded her up to take her to her new owner she gave him a parting shot, in the same location. Now my husband is looking into goalie padding. Her older sister left a perfect hoof-shaped bruise on my right buttock during her breed inspections. I thought about turning it into a tattoo but I decided that that was probably a moment I didn't need to mark on my posterior for posterity.

It is rewarding though. Heartbreaking at times, but rewarding. And so in the next newsletter there will be two little ones running around that I can't wait to introduce you to – and chronicle their escapades. Until then, give your horses a hug and a kiss and remember, there was someone who had the honor to be the first one to do that and sacrificed a lot to bring them to you.

2021 Competitions

May

8/9 – Wyn Farm Dressage Schooling Show
9 – Woodbine Dressage Schooling Show
16 – Grosse Pointe Equestrian Schooling Show
22-23 – Dressage at Albion College

June

4/5 – Dressage at Waterloo Spring I
6 – Dressage at Waterloo Spring II
6 – Woodbine Dressage Schooling Show
12 – Wyn Farm Dressage Schooling Show
18/19 – Dressage at Waterloo June I
20 – Dressage at Waterloo June II
26 – Brilliant Reflection Farm Schooling Show
27 – Grosse Pointe Equestrian Schooling Show

July

10 – Wyn Farm Dressage Schooling Show
10/11 – Woodbine Dressage Schooling Show
16-18 – Dressage at Waterloo July
24 – Brilliant Reflection Farm Schooling Show

31-Aug. 1 – Michigan Summer Dressage at Wyn Farm

August

6-8 – Dressage at Waterloo August
1 – Grosse Pointe Equestrian Schooling Show
14/15 – Wyn Farm Dressage Schooling Show
19/20 – Dressage at Waterloo Summer Finale I
21/22 – Dressage at Waterloo Summer Finale II
28 – Brilliant Reflection Farm Schooling Show
29 – Woodbine Dressage Schooling Show

September

3-5 – Schooling Show Regional Championships
10-12 – Dressage at Waterloo Autumn Classic I and II
11 – Wyn Farm Dressage Schooling Show
19 – Woodbine Dressage Schooling Show
26 – Grosse Pointe Dressage Schooling Show

October

7-10 – GAIG/USDF Region 2 Championships at the Kentucky Horse Park



The Encore Award

A Way to Recognize Off The Track Thoroughbreds in Dressage...



The Encore Award is presented through the Midwest Dressage Association on behalf of Allison and Jeremy McKenzie, Joan Gaughan, and in memory of Jack Gaughan, who loved Thoroughbreds more than any other breed.

It is awarded to the rider/horse combination that achieves the highest average score at any level, Introductory through Grand Prix in any one season. The scores may be received at either schooling or recognized shows. To qualify the horse/rider combination must have at least three scores from three different judges, one of those scores being from the highest test of the level being ridden.

Please Provide:

-A copy of the horses Jockey Club papers or lip tattoo that includes the original JC name

-Riders MDA number

-Copy of test scores

Mail submissions to:

Allison McKenzie Sporthorses

9867 Sharon Hollow Road

Manchester, MI 48158

