



October 2018

Editor's Notes...

Show season 2018 is officially in the books for Michigan. That means that now our weekends are free and we no longer know what to do with ourselves. For me it means that my house is reasonably clean, my barn is spotless, and laundry is done. Well, the horse laundry because after all that's the laundry that matters. Which brings me to certain issues that a lot of us face: That moment when your husband discovers horse hair in his underwear. And in his socks. And in his pants. Really, I could go on and on. I took it upon myself to wash every bit of fabric associated with my horses – saddle pads, polo wraps, blankets and other associated items of equine clothing. Obviously, this took a great deal of time since my horses' wardrobe is much more extensive than mine, and undoubtedly costs more. By the end of day two – yes, I said day TWO – I decided that if I wanted to be a somewhat accommodating wife I should probably do a load of my husband's clothing. I'm not oblivious – I did run a rinse cycle beforehand. But as we all know horse hair is insidious – it finds its way into everything, so as a result some hair found its way into places that I don't think my husband ever expected to find it. Apparently, some men find it irksome to have horse hair in their underwear! It was then that the whining began and I started to realize that there is a deep divide between what is an acceptable form of cleanliness for horse people and what is acceptable for non-horse people. Case in point: The other day I practically bleached my hands after cleaning the toilet. Two hours prior, I was cleaning stalls and in the

middle of it ate a cookie that was in my pocket without so much as a pause. I have shared hairbrushes with my horse but recoil in horror when people want to hug me. I let my horse lick my face but refuse to kiss my husband until he brushes his teeth in the morning. Double standard? Probably. Wrong? Yeah...not really.

Compromise is an art form, and I truly admire those couples that have mastered it because I still struggle with it. I can negotiate with my mare (kind of) and definitely with my gelding but I still lack the ability to convince my husband that since the horse hair has been run through the washer it is clean when it attaches itself to his skivvies. I try to be a good wife – I cook, I clean and I try to support his interests (as long as they don't occur on a horse show weekend) but yesterday when he called me from work to inform me that he cut his finger sharpening a chainsaw (he's a tree trimmer) I suggested that he stop by the vet's office to get stitches. No matter how much of a struggle keeping a balance between the horse world and the happy marriage world is, I think that we should all count ourselves lucky if we have one of those long-suffering partners who are willing to tolerate a little bit of horse hair in their undies because they recognize that we're trying to find a compromise between loving them and obsessing over horses. We are lucky people indeed!

Midwest Dressage Association Board of Directors

Will Davis, President

WillDavis@aol.com



Nancy Bryant, Vice President

nancyclair0924@gmail.com



Pam Morrison, Treasurer

info@equinebookkeeping.com



Cheryl Figures, Secretary

C.fig2001@yahoo.com



Allison McKenzie, Newsletter

amsporhorses@yahoo.com



Beth Schaub, Awards

beschaub.701@gmail.com



Tonya Grant, Education/Prof. Adv.

TonyaGrant@visualequestrian.com



Lindy Thompson

linden.j.thompson@gmail.com



Sarah Randolph

telosfarm@hotmail.com



Milanna Jones

lannamk223@gmail.com



Alexis Levitt

Jarlev7@msn.com

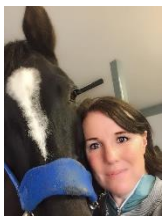


MDA Board of Directors

Nominations:

Here are the nominees that are running, or running for re-election, for the Board of Directors of the Midwest Dressage Association. Ballots will be sent soon!

Allison McKenzie, Incumbent



Hi my name is Allison McKenzie and I am seeking to serve my second term on the MDA Board of Directors. Many of you know me as the editor of this newsletter, which I love doing and hope to continue. You may also know me as the bartender at the Waterloo Dressage Shows, which provides a cool opportunity for me to meet all of you and have a little fun! When I first started serving on the board I was a little overwhelmed and wasn't quite sure how I could help promote Dressage in mid-Michigan and serve in any helpful capacity. However, I quickly learned that this board is all about trying to serve the members of the Dressage community in various ways and that different voices, opinions, and outlooks are crucial to helping riders of various abilities and levels. I take my responsibility very seriously and have often tried to provide differing viewpoints in board decisions so that the whole picture can be examined. I love serving on this board and I feel that there is much more work for me to do, including bringing more events to lower southeastern Michigan as I feel it is an area that is often underserved. I am also the sponsor for the Encore Award, an award presented through the MDA recognizing OTTB's in Dressage.

I am a professional trainer and have a farm in Manchester, Michigan called Allison McKenzie Sporthorses where I train, teach, and also breed Oldenburg sport horses. Although I started my career in Eventing and still compete in that arena from time to time, my true love is Dressage. I love teaching my students and horses the nuances and details that make this sport so beautiful. I specialize in re-training off the track Thoroughbreds and currently compete my OTTB, Midwest Politics and my Arab cross mare, Maleficent. I am the head coach of the Manchester High School Equestrian Team. I have my B.A. in English from the University of Michigan and I am currently apprenticing to become a licensed Technical Delegate for the USDF. I am a mom to two dogs, Maggie and Hannah, five cats, four horses, including two stellar broodmares, and four fish. I am lucky enough to be married to my best friend and awesome farrier, Jeremy, who unwittingly provides fodder for many a newsletter by virtue of being the wonderful horse show husband that he is. I am here to serve this membership and this community to the best of my ability.

Cheryl Figures, Incumbent



Hello,
I was appointed to the board last year to fill a one-year vacancy. It's been an honor to serve on the board of Midwest Dressage Association and I would like to run to continue this position for another term.

My addiction to horses and riding began when I was a small child; my cousin was an eventer and would pony me around anytime he was home. I started in the Hunter/Jumper area but I

began my Dressage journey 27 years ago. When I caught a glimpse of my son in diapers standing on my husband's lap while my horse refused a 3 ft. jump, I decided as a mother I needed to plant my butt more firmly in a saddle.

I was blessed with one child that is horse crazy and one that is not which gives my life a good balance. Equally a blessing is a super supportive husband. Both children are grown and out of the house so I have plenty of time to devote to my equine partner as well as the MDA board and its members. I still have many goals and aspirations in Dressage including always striving to beat my son's scores (friendly competition is good for the soul). I have a new grandson that needs to be introduced to this wonderful sport and I pray he becomes a Dressage junkie. I also hope to continue to work towards my USDF medal(s).

I graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Business Administration/Pre- Law. I attended Cooley Law School and have been slowly working on my MBA. Although my business card says Corporate Controller/Accounting Manager, I wear many hats daily. I am active in many community and charity programs and I have served as 4-H leader and High School Equestrian Coach for several years.

In a room full of Professionals strongly focused on the Jr./Yg.Rider, I feel it is my role to be the voice of the Adult Amateur. If elected I will hold that in mind and serve the general members best interest. My email is always open for any input, anytime.

Tonya Grant, Incumbent



Tonya Grant excelled at jumping events as a young girl and continues to excel at professional Dressage competitions as an adult. She started riding at the age of three under the guidance of her parents, Chuck and Carole Grant and began jumping at age 6 and remained jumping and competing in the Hunter/Jumper ring until the age of 32. Her jumper career achievements include qualifying for numerous Medal and Maclay finals and riding on the Jr./YR rider team. She rode in prestigious competitions at Harrisburg, Palm Beach, and Madison Square Garden. During her jumping career Tonya rode with notable trainers such as John and Beezie Madden, Chris Kappler, Cindy Carlson, Rodger Turner, and Katie Prudent. Other trainers include Frank Madden, George Morris, and German legend Hans Winkler. After her junior years were over Tonya went on to compete professionally in 1989, winning many Grand Prix's with a horse named Dirty Dancing. She also ran a Hunter/Jumper barn in Michigan for many years. In 2002 Tonya, who had been riding Dressage under the supervision of her parents, made the career change to ride Dressage full-time. Tonya brought home USDF Gold and Silver Medals in 2002 on Tamara, a PRE stallion. Tonya placed in the Regional Finals with a horse named Jumbo D in Prix St. George and then went on to compete successfully with Dutch stallion, Kevekko. She won the 2008 USEF Silver Stirrup award for Grand Prix and

Intermediate II and ranked 4th nationally for the USDF riding Kevekko. In 2009, Tonya and Kevekko won the Grand Prix at The Winter Equestrian Festival Classic in Wellington, FL.

Tonya's Dressage trainers have included her late father Chuck Grant, her mother Carole Grant, and the late Sally Swift. Other trainers that have influenced Tonya's riding are Klaus Balkenhaul, Michelle Gibson, Balimo instructor Nancy Baker, and Susan Harris, a long time protege of Sally Swift. Currently Tonya trains mainly with Carole Grant and has an up and coming star training for Grand Prix that is an 8-year-old Dutch mare.

Tonya works with Catherine Haddad Staller whenever possible and will be training at Rock Bluff Ranch for the winter with Yvonne Barteau.

Tonya is now concentrating on the operation for Visual Equestrian Dressage in Fenton, Michigan. She teaches, rides, competes, sells horses and is now concentrating on bringing up young horses to the FEI division. Tonya continues to study the art of Dressage and has goals to follow in her parents' footsteps bringing horses along to the Grand Prix level and competing for the United States of America. She brings many years of experience to the table both from her jumping and dressage background, making her an all-around great horsewoman.

Jean Coleman-Henderson, New Candidate



I started riding in the 80's when I was in college. After taking lessons for a few years I

rescued a horse and owned her from three years old until she died at 29.

Through the years I have always worked in the industry to pay my equine expenses. As a result, I have been exposed to hunters, draft horses, Morgans, Standardbred race horses and of course Dressage horses, my true love. Working with such a variety of horses has been a great learning experience and I believe there are many things to be learned from other disciplines.

I taught beginner lessons at a hunter barn in Bay City for a few years as well as competing in hunter and Dressage schooling shows.

I have been an MDA member since 2013 and have scribed at many of the Rattlewood shows. I feel it is time to get more involved in the Michigan dressage community and that's why I want to get more involved through the MDA. Ultimately, I hope to continue to compete in dressage and my dream is to continue riding long enough to get my Century Club award!

The Grant Symposium: A View From The Ground

By Milanna Davis

The 2018 Grant Symposium provided a wealth of information pertaining to upper and lower level Dressage. Carole Grant provided explanations of the purpose of all exercises, including those performed on the ground and under saddle. Her explanations answered questions relating to how each exercise works to promote the development of a more athletic horse. By the end of the Grant Symposium, I received extensive education on Dressage training. After implementing the training techniques that I learned, I noticed immediate results relating to my horse's suppleness and

obedience. This event has enriched my life by providing me with beneficial techniques and exercises that I will continue to implement in my own riding.



Carole Grant doing what she does best – teaching!

Somewhere behind the athlete you have become:

*The coaches who have pushed you.
The people who believed in you.
The long hours of schooling.
The dirt beneath your nails.
The falls you have taken.
The tears you have cried.
The horses you have given your heart to.*

It is the little girl who fell in love with a pony
and never looked back.

It is being thrown in the dirt, getting up, brushing it off
and trying until you succeed.

It is a passion filled with strength, determination,
precision and so much more.

This is the definition
of a true sport where companionship is
the key to success and fear is not an option.



It's called being an Equestrian

Don't Forget!!!



Our year-end awards banquet will be held at Waldenwoods on November 18 from 11am-3:00pm. There will be a brunch, cash bar, and silent auction. Come join us for a lovely event at a beautiful facility!

For reservations please contact Cheryl Figures at (906) 430-1046 or email cfigs_mda@yahoo.com.

Waldenwoods is located at 2975 Old US Hwy 23, Howell, Michigan.

To purchase tickets please mail the bottom to Cheryl Figures by November 10 at 8714 Brookville Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Please make checks payable to Midwest Dressage Association

Name _____

Number in party _____ *x \$35.00 Total* _____

MID MICHIGAN SCHOOLING SHOW 11 SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

JUDGE: N. Bryant

<u>CLASS NAME</u>	<u>Placing</u>	<u>Rider First Name</u>	<u>Rider Last Name</u>	<u>Horse</u>
Intro C	1	Kristen	Schank-Tucciarone	Sugar Play It Smart
Tr. 1	1	Kristen	Schenk-Tucciarone	Sugar Play It Smart
Tr. 2	1	Misa	McCoy	Bebe
Tr. 2	1	Holly	Zecchin	Dynomite Warrior Featured
Tr. 3	1	Jillian	Blocker	Presentation
Tr. 3	2	Misa	McCoy	Bebe
Tr. 3	3	Rebecca	Agle	Prince Randolph
Tr. 3	1	Holly	Zecchin	Dynomite Warrior
1st 1	1	Alyssa	Olson	Hamilton Lobito Comes
1st 1	2	Sylvie	Boesser	Running
1st 1	1	Marie	Domke-Dewitt	Blonde's Hijinks
1st 3	2	Alyssa	Olson	Hamilton
1st 3	3	Leslie	Richardson	Achatez
1st 3	1	Kalin	McQueen	Smashing Lad
2nd 1	1	Linda	Currier	Top Hat Fiduciary
2nd 3	1	Sally	Baker	Quirks & Foibles CBMF Coming
3rd 3	1	Sue	Ashley	Attraction
Intermediate I	1	Sue	Ashley	Luke

**MID MICHIGAN SCHOOLING SHOW REGIONALS 12
SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2018 JUDGES: C. Posner, S. Savage**

<u>CLASS NAME</u>	<u>Placing</u>	<u>Rider First Name</u>	<u>Rider Last Name</u>	<u>Horse</u>
Intro C	1	Natalie	Hoerlein	Coco
Intro C	2	Londyn	Pachota	Wind in the Willows
Intro C	1	Kristen	Schank-Tucciarone	Sugar Play It Smart
Intro C	2	Jorge	Prosperi	Legal Majority
Intro C	4	Rebecca	Agle	Prince Randolph
Intro C	1	Natalie	Hoerlein	Coco
Intro C	2	Londyn	Pachota	Wind in the Willows
Tr. 2	1	Misa	McCoy	Bebe
Tr. 3	1	Melissa	Long	Catcha Smooth Jet

Tr. 3	2	Sylvie	Boesser	Lobito Comes Running
Tr. 3	4	Misa	McCoy	Bebe Featured Presentation
Tr. 3	1	Jillian	Blocker	Legal Majority Lobito Comes Running
Tr. 3	2	Jorge	Prosperi	Catcha Smooth Jet
Tr. 3	3	Sylvie	Boesser	Galassis
Tr. 3	4	Melissa	Long	Blonde's Hijinks Lobito Comes Running
Tr. 3	1	Eleanor	Millerschin	Galassis
Tr. 3	2	Marie	Domke-Dewitt	Blonde's Hijinks Lobito Comes Running
1st 1	1	Sylvie	Boesser	Blonde's Hijinks
1st 1	1	Marie	Domke-Dewitt	Achatez
1st 3	1	Leslie	Richardson	Smashing Lad
1st 3	3	Kalin	MacQueen	Hamilton
1st 3	1	Alyssa	Olson	Galassis
1st 3	1	Eleanor	Millerschin	Top Hat Fiduciary
2nd 1	1	Linda	Currier	Quirks & Foibles
2nd 2	2	Sally	Baker	Isabella
2nd 3	1	Tracy	Engbloom	Ozzy CBMF Coming Attraction
2nd 3	2	Jean	Falck	
3rd 3	1	Sue	Ashley	
Intermediate I	1	Sue	Ashley	Luke

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>

Employment/Working Student

Visual Equestrian Dressage LLC and Tonya Grant have an amazing opportunity open. We are looking for a dedicated local horse lover who aspires to become a professional someday. We have a full-time working student position currently open. Must have transportation, riding clothes, and a very good work ethic. Opportunity to show and travel and lots of opportunity to ride. Must be hard-working and willing to do a lot of grooming in exchange for riding. Applications will be accepted by email or phone. Riding interviews open in April.
Visual Equestrian Dressage LLC - www.visualequestrian.com
Tonya Grant (248) 219-0410



Stable Listings-

Allison McKenzie Sporthorses

Training, Lessons, Breeding, Boarding

Manchester, MI 48158

amsporthorses@yahoo.com

www.allisonmckenzie-sporthorses.com

734- 276-8967

Lessons, Boarding, Breeding, Sales

Brilliant Reflection Farm

Brian and Barbra Reis

Ortonville, MI 48462

248-670-9031

blondmane@yahoo.com

www.brilliantreflectionfarm.com

Lessons, Boarding, Rehab, Schooling Shows

High Point Farm

Alison Allen

Oxford, MI

248-410-0684

www.highpointdressage.com

All day turnout and quality feed

Stalls cleaned daily

Lesson plans available

Deisig Dressage

Janelle Deisig

Frankenmuth, MI 48734

989-598-6850

Janelledeisig@yahoo.com

www.deisigdressage.com

Dressage training, sales, trailer-in lessons

Sky High Farm

Lapeer, MI 48446

248-890-2426

jenmaull@yahoo.com

Boarding, Lessons, Clinics

<http://skyhighfarm.vpweb.com>

Boarding and Dressage Training Indoor and Outdoor arenas

The Levy Farm

Shawn Ozker Ragsdale

Metamora, MI 48455

248-318-0725

Training, Lessons, Clinics

Novice-FEI

Visual Equestrian LLC

Carole and Tonya Grant

Fenton, MI 48430

248-219-0410

Dressage Training, Sale Horses and Ponies

Pony Program, Clinics, Trailer-in Lessons

Will Davis Training Center

Oxford, MI

810-287-2011

Boarding, Training, Clinics with

International Trainers, Home to Mid-Michigan

Dressage Shows.

******In order to have your facility listed in the newsletter, please email Allison at amsporthorses@yahoo.com You MUST be an MDA member to have your facility listed!***

2018 Calendar of Events**November**

9-12 – USDF Finals, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY.

18 – MDA Banquet at Waldenwoods in Highland, MI.

28-30 – USDF Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah

