



September 2019 Editor's Notes...

And that's a wrap! The 2019 Dressage show season is over and now it's time to reflect and take stock of everything that we've accomplished and learned. Even if you don't show the daily training and riding victories – even the small ones – add up and deserve recognition. In a previous issue of the newsletter I mentioned that my show season ended somewhat prematurely due an injury to my horse. Well that horse is feeling much better now and he has a new rider in the form of my young student. The two of them are forming quite a bond and the horse seems happier to have a kid dote on him than a professional rider who has aspirations of achieving far more than he cares to. Victories don't always come in a show ring and the reward is often far greater than a satin ribbon. Last night as I watched my young Carly have a huge breakthrough on the horse that I trained I was filled with so much pride. Here was my prize student developing a relationship and understanding with a horse that I put so much into. I realized that as huge as her smile was, mine was equally as huge. Those are the biggest victories in my life, and they are better than any score or placing. If we are truly invested in this sport it is imperative that we find a way to give back to it – to represent it to the best of our abilities. Not everyone is able to teach and train others, but we all have the ability encourage and push one another. We have a responsibility to give to those around us the opportunity to explore and

learn as much as possible whether that be by teaching and training, being a generous and quiet rider to our horses, or giving support at the side of the ring. Small victories are where we learn – they're how we grow. With patience and with kindness our sport grows, and our knowledge deepens, and I think that's what I love the most about Dressage.

Enjoy the fall weather, get out and enjoy your ponies and take in the beauty. Dream about next season but never forget to live in the beautiful moments that are given to you. That is something that you will never regret.

-Allison



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MDA.DressageOrg@gmail.com



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tonyagrant@visualequestrian.com



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Jean.C.MDA@gmail.com



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kathmm900@aol.com

2019 Regional Championships: Fun In Our Own Backyard!

In September the Waterloo Hunt Club and HorseShowOffice.com hosted the Region 2 Championships. These championships hosted horses and riders from all over the area and showcased just how well respected and capable Kevin Bradbury and his staff are. While Waterloo is no stranger to hosting large horse shows, Regionals invite the best of the best and there is no room for error. Because this show tends to be much larger than the typical shows that HorseShowOffice.com hosts, extra tents were brought in not just for stabling, but for entertainment and vendors. The show ran over five days and required an ample supply of staff and volunteers.



A beautiful day for showing at Regional Championships at the Waterloo Hunt Club.

The quality of riding was a testament to the depth and strength that our region is known for. There were names that were new to the Waterloo show grounds but there were also familiar names that call it home during the regular show season like Lindy Thompson, Leah Majkrzak, Carrie Wilson, and Michelle

Conrad. Keeping everything running smoothly was quite a task but ring stewards like Deb Postiff and Joan Gaughan kept things running smoothly while in the office Andrea Bradbury assisted her brother and commander-in-chief, Kevin, with operations. Kevin's staff is remarkable, and the technology used for his shows is top-notch. He even brought in some older faces from years past like Cody Heim, who currently works with horse shows in Florida. Missing from the action at this show was Dallas Bradbury, Kevin's father and designated hospitality person. Dallas unfortunately fell and broke his hip before Regionals started and had to miss the show.

The judge's panel was impressive to say the least and included Gary Rockwell, Janet Foy, Lilo Fore, Bill Warren, Natalie Lamping and Dolly Hannon, Mike Osinski, Lisa Schmidt, and Charlotte Trentelman. As usual the competitors, judges, and staff were treated to great food and drinks at the conclusion of showing on Friday and Saturday with the added bonus of a DJ on Friday night. Everyone was delighted to witness the rare treat of Janet Foy and Lilo Fore dancing to Garth Brooks "Friends in Low Places" – something rather unexpected from two of the best-known judges in the world!



Lilo Fore and Janet Foy tear up the dance floor.

Watching the riding was the true treat of the show. Every competitor brought their “A” game and the horses were stunning. Many of our local riders were crowned Champion and Reserve Champion and will be heading to the national finals in Kentucky in November. The judges rewarded quality riding and attention to detail. While there was some rain (it wouldn’t be Waterloo without it!) the footing held true and all the riders pressed on.



Lindy Thompson and her pony, Beau, enjoy a victory gallop

Of course Regionals would not have been the success that it was without all those people who stepped up and volunteered their time and talents. The membership of the MDA stepped up and helped to make all this possible and everyone should be incredibly proud!

All in all the 2019 Regional Finals at Waterloo were a smashing success. Our little mecca in Grass Lake was put on full display and it was proven that it can be included on the list of premier show facilities. Competitors and their families were very impressed with what a

gorgeous and well-run facility it is. Congratulations to Kevin Bradbury and his staff for a job well done!

Great Lakes Regional Schooling Show Championships: Hard Work Pays Off!

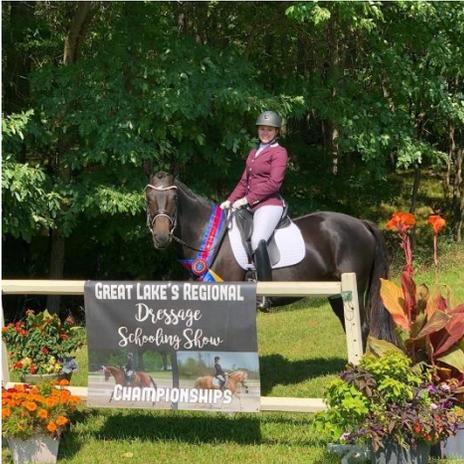
When Will Davis sets out to do something, chances are it will not only get done, but it will get done with flair and panache. The Mid Michigan Dressage Schooling shows have been a labor of love for Will and the Great Lakes Regional Schooling Show Championships (GLRSS) are the icing on the cake. Set against the backdrop of the gorgeous Rattlewood Farm facility, competitors enjoyed beautiful weather and a perfectly run show. Will pulled out all the stops to help competitors feel like these Regionals were every bit as important as the ones held at Waterloo.



Deanna Dennis Labudde was awarded a well-deserved Championship.

Riders were treated to great food and hospitality all weekend. The MDA also maintained a presence by hosting the annual used tack sale, which raises money for educational opportunities for its members. In fact, MDA President Nancy Bryant was one of

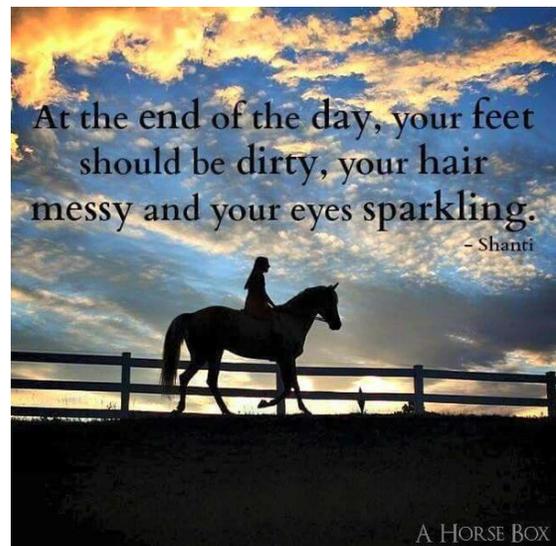
the judges for the show. Those who volunteered were essential in helping this great show run smoothly and of course, it wouldn't be Rattlewood without Will's parents getting competitors into the rings on time!



Ellie Millerschinn struck a pretty pose wearing her championship ribbon.

The GLRSS championships are run in a manner very similar to recognized shows: Riders must obtain two qualifying scores from the highest test of that level from two different judges. Coupled with the USDF's Regional Schooling Show Awards Program, new and exciting opportunities are being presented to riders who don't necessarily want to show at the recognized level but still want to test their skills.

Will Davis' shows have become synonymous with quality and excellence. If you haven't had a chance to show at Rattlewood you've been missing out on something special. Kudos to Will on a job well done – we can't wait for next year!



Barn Fires – Preventing Your Worst Nightmare

By Tonya Bettridge



Owning and operating any kind of farm is a tough job. The last thing you need is a fire. Whether it's a fully engulfed barn, an indoor arena inferno, or a tractor that got way too hot and decided to take the drive shed with it, a fire is usually considered the worst possible thing that can happen. Ask any equine property owner/operator who has had a fire and they'll tell you that there is a lot more at stake than the barn.



Farm laneways should always be accessible to heavy firefighting equipment with clear right-of-way to reach all farm buildings, free of low hanging wires and tree branches. Photo:

©CanStockPhoto/Markcross

How (Why) Did the Fire Start?

When discussing any sort of fire, the first question asked is “How did it start?” Some may consider this to be semantics, because the “how” is always the same – there was an unfortunate combination of oxygen, heat, and fuel. While that question is not exactly helpful, its answer is important.

“WHY did the fire start?” is the question that really needs to be asked. Because this question takes us back to the first answer and which of those three elements should have been prevented, let's look at some of the most common ways those elements come into play.

Fuel – Something has to ignite and feed the fire. Barns are perfect habitats as hay, straw, dust, and cobwebs make prime fuel candidates. Oily rags, crops, grass, and wood are also common elements that can be ignited and continue to feed a fire.

Heat – Common heat sources for farm-related fires are hay and straw (spontaneous combustion), heating systems (everything from heat lamps to radiant tube heaters), hot equipment (vehicles, large equipment, and welding tools), and electrical components (such as wiring and fuse panels). Exposure to lightning, cigarettes, and outdoor fires easily increase the risk of a structure fire.



Hay and straw should be properly dried before storing in the barn to reduce the risk of spontaneous combustion. Photo: Perth East Fire Department

Oxygen – The nature of farm buildings is that they were designed, for the most part, to allow ventilation and air circulation. While that is great for barn occupants, it certainly doesn't help when it comes to preventing or extinguishing a fire. Often, installed fire separation walls are compromised with the installation of wiring, plumbing, and other utility systems.



Most barns are located in rural areas and lack fire detection devices, so when a fire starts it can go undetected for a long time. Barn fires spread quickly because barns are designed for ventilation, which makes for a quick and powerful fire path. Photo: Perth East Fire Department



Tightly stacked bales of hay in a loft with minimal ventilation is a textbook fire hazard in a barn. Derrick Coetzee/Flickr

How To Stop Fire Before It Starts

As financial circumstances vary widely throughout the equine community, here are some fire safety tips categorized by affordability:

Lower Cost

- Installation of fire extinguishers.
- Maintenance schedule that includes checking wiring, clearing dust and cobwebs, looking for signs of corrosion, etc.
- Development and implementation of a fire safety plan for your facilities (with the help of your local fire department).
- Development and practice of an evacuation plan for your facilities (this includes human and livestock evacuation – involve your local fire department whenever possible).
- Enforce a strict “No Smoking” policy in and around your structures.

- Ensure all family and staff members are trained on safe use of equipment, especially actions such as ensuring vehicles and equipment are cool before storing, and welding tasks are handled properly and safely.



A no smoking policy should be strictly enforced in the barn and near all flammable materials. Photo: Robin Duncan Photography

- Do not allow smoking in or around barns or near any flammable farm materials.
- Situate manure piles at least 10 meters away from barns to reduce the chance of combustion.
- Ensure hay and straw are properly dried before storing in the barn and monitor their temperature regularly.
- Keep dust and cobwebs to a minimum.
- For horse barns, leave horses haltered or hang halters and leads on stall doors where they are easily found should evacuation be required.
- Question and/or remove unknown, unlicensed, and unauthorized persons from the premises.
- Regularly check all appliances, wiring, electrical equipment, and heat-producing materials and equipment to ensure everything is in safe, working order.
- Repair/replace any frayed or damaged wiring as soon as it is identified.
- Never refuel engines inside a building or while the engine is running or hot.
- Extension cords should only be used temporarily and should be removed after use.
- Park equipment and vehicles indoors only after they have cooled down.
- Ensure all buildings and vehicles have fire extinguishers and that everyone who frequents your property knows how to use them.

Medium Cost – include all Lower Cost items, plus:

- Ionization smoke alarms.
- Regular technical and electrical inspections by your provincial safety authority.
- Removal of all extension cords, and replacement with professionally installed outlets.
- Installation of lightning rods.

Higher Cost – include all Lower and Medium Cost items, plus:

- Sprinkler System.
- On-site water storage.
- Hose cabinets.
- Monitored fire alarm system.
- Video surveillance.

Fire Safety for Everyone

Regardless of your financial situation, there are a number of things you can do to improve fire safety at your farm:



A halter and lead rope should be available at the front of each stall for emergency removal of horses. Do some emergency preparedness training with your horses to get them used to being handled during an evacuation. They should be accustomed to being approached at night with a flashlight and to being led while blindfolded. Wear a large coat and hat with a bulky backpack to resemble a firefighter wearing breathing apparatus. Photo: Robin Duncan Photography

Help Is Available

1. Does your facility have a fire safety plan?
2. Do buildings containing animals have an evacuation plan?
3. Are you, your family members, employees, and frequent visitors trained in fire safety?
4. Do they know what to look for when touring the barn or operating equipment and vehicles?
5. If a fire started, would everyone know what to do?

Your local fire department can help you answer “yes” to these questions. Most fire departments will have fire prevention or public education personnel who can work with you, and many will do so for a reasonable fee or no fee at all.

If your local fire department doesn't have a farm fire safety program, they can adopt one easily. For farm fire safety information, or for information on fire department program resources, visit our website at

www.pertheast.ca/ffsc.

Let's all work together to build a farm fire safe community. As every horse owner knows, there's much more at stake than the barn.

Main article photo: ©iStockphoto/JoeDPhoto. This article was originally published in the September 2015 issue of Canadian Horse Journal.

2019-2020 Calendar

November

22-23 – Annual Awards Banquet and Educational Weekend. Meet and Greet, Guest Speakers, and 50th Anniversary Award Banquet Celebration. Black Tie Event. Auburn Hill Marriott Hotel, 3600 Centerpoint Pkwy, Pontiac, MI. Contact Will Davis at WillDavis@aol.com.

January

18-19 – USDF Instructor Certification Program Hosted by MDA – Workshop A. McPhail Equine Performance Center. 8:00am – 5:00pm. 1131 Bogue St., East Lansing, MI 48824.

March

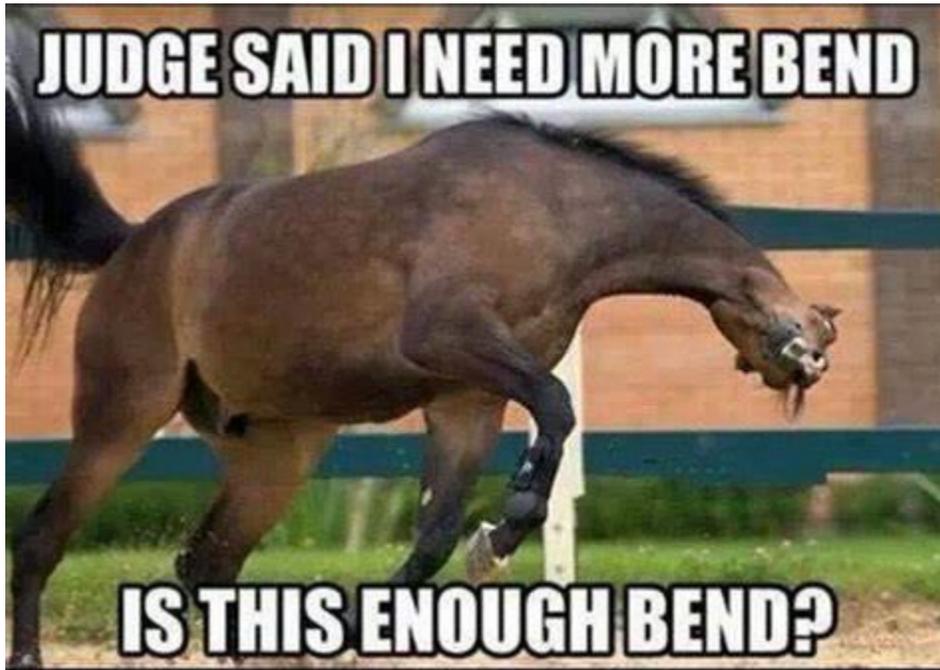
7-8 – USDF Instructor Certification Program Hosted by MDA – Workshop B. McPhail Equine Performance Center. 8:00am – 5:00pm. 1131 Bogue St., East Lansing, MI 48824

Legend:

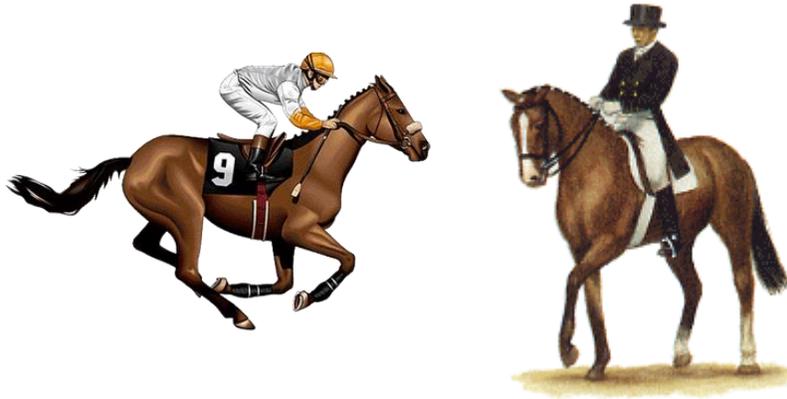
MDA Recognized Schooling Shows in purple

USDF Recognized Shows in green

MDA Educational Events in yellow



The Encore Award



This award recognizes the achievements of Off-The-Track Thoroughbreds in the sport of Dressage. This is a year-end high-point award that will be given to an OTTB competing at any level that has achieved the highest overall percentage for the competition season. Owners/Riders must provide a copy of the horses' Jockey Club papers or a picture of a verifiable lip tattoo and three tests ridden under three different judges at any one level from a recognized or schooling show. Rider and/or owner must be a current MDA member. This award is sponsored by Allison McKenzie.

**Please send the application and paperwork to:
Allison McKenzie
9867 Sharon Hollow Road
Manchester, MI 48158**

Horse Name: _____

Owner/Rider Name: _____

Owner/Rider Address: _____

Owner/Rider Phone: _____

Owner/Rider Email: _____

Questions? Contact Allison at 734-276-8967 or amsporthorses@yahoo.com

Tribute Partners Program



The Tribute Partners Program allows MDA to earn money for educational events. Every proof of purchase tag (found on the bottom of the feedbag) is worth \$.25. Invoices for bulk feed are also eligible for this program. In the first year of participation, MDA earned over \$500 because members contributed their feed bag tags!

Instructions:

Please forward your Tribute Horse Feed proof of purchase (off of the bags) or photocopies of invoices for bulk Tribute purchases. If you are submitting photocopied invoices, please black out any sensitive information like name, phone, credit card info.

Submit proof of purchase tags to:
Midwest Dressage Association
C/O Milanna Jones
284 South Tilden Street
Pontiac, MI 48341

If you have questions about this program, please contact Milanna Jones at 248 534 6415.

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>

Saddles/Tack For Sale

2014 17" Bruno Delgrange medium tree with silver accents on cantle and flap. Medium flap length. \$3000. Please contact Leslie Richardson at (810) 287-0053

The following items are for sale from Nancy Bryant. Items located in Clarkston, Ortonville, or Oxford, Michigan. Phone (248) 632-2045

Custom Saddlery Wolfgang Signature Solo 17.5 Black Short thigh block saddle. Ridden in for four months on one horse. Excellent condition. Comes with cover, new stirrup leathers, new stirrups and two new girths. Fitted to a narrower horse but the beauty of a Custom saddle is that it can be fitted on site to your horse same day, no shipping out your saddle to be adjusted. \$2700 new plus \$300 in fittings. Asking \$2200 firm. Comes with bonus schooling saddle pads.

Stubben bridle style 3200, new with tags. Black flash noseband with leather stop stud reins. Horse size. Red chain link browband insert. New \$175, asking \$100.

Neue Schule Turtle Tactio with Flex Loose ring snaffle bit. 16mm mouthpiece, 70mm rings, 5.75. Worn 2 weeks. New \$217. Asking \$200.

Dover Black Sheepskin Lined Saddle pad. Used one season. New \$80. Asking \$50. Good condition.

Brown leather and elastic side reins used a few times. Asking \$25

Weatherbeeta Navy fleece cooler – size 78 with cute colorful hedgehog pattern. Worn 4-5 times. Clean. New \$65. Asking \$55.

Horseware Mio Turnout Sheet. Size 78. Navy with tan trim. New condition. Asking \$40.

Horseware Mio Combo Flysheet. Size 84. Neck attached. Has snags from Velcro but in usable condition. New \$60. Asking \$40.

Amigo Bravo 12 Plus Deluxe 84" Black Heavyweight Winter Blanket, 400gm with detachable 200gm hood. Worn one season. Clean and waterproofed. Fixtures to attach to any compatible Rambo liner. Allows you to increase weight with one blanket. New \$250. Asking \$200.

Shoofly Horse Leggings. Set of 4 large bright orange. Never search for boots in the pasture again! Like new. Worn two weeks. New \$50. Asking \$40.

Dressage Sport Boots. All in New/Good condition.

DSB Silver Patent Gloss with black fleece lining. Two large, Two extra-large. Four boot set. Good condition. New \$110. Asking \$70.

DSB White Patent Gloss with white fleece lining. Two medium. Two large. New condition. Four boot set. New \$110. Asking \$90.

DSB Black Dressage Sport Boots with black fleece lining. Two large, two extra large. Good condition. Four boot set. New \$100. Asking \$60.

ASB White All Sport Boot Set. Two medium. Two large. \$110 new. Great condition. Asking \$70.

PRI Dressage Pads. Wool lined – no foam. Assorted colors. \$20 each.

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.allisonmckenziezsporthorses.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

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.

Equestrian Enrichment

Kim Robbins

Meadowland Farm

Davison, MI

248-830-6523

Training, Clinics, Sale Horses, Trailer-in Lessons

Bronze and Silver Medalist.

Kimrobbinsdressage.com

******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!***

