

Collected Remarks

September 2024



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In This Issue

STORIES

Outside the Sandbox - *delivering general articles and activities*

- 5 - Letter from the President *Caren Caverly*
- 6 - Volunteer Coordinator Needed
- 7 - Letterman Jacket Program
- 8-9 - Award Gala *Caren Caverly*
- 11 - GDCTA End of Summer Finals Schooling Show
- 13 - Congratulations to Liz Molloy *Lendon Gray*
- 15-19 - Bigger Isn't Always Better *Janie Pride*

Dressage - *inside the sandbox*

- 21-22 - Discovering the FEI North American Youth Dressage Championship *Alice Burley*
- 22-23 - FEI North American Youth Championships *Virginia Woodcock*

Eventing - *3 times the fun*

- 24-25 - Eventing Camp 2024: Bigger, Better, Badass *Joanne Morse*

GDCTA Business - *a glimpse behind the curtain*

- 26-27 - GDCTA Board & Committees
- 28-29 - Donors
- 30 - Meeting Notes
- 32 - Schooling Show Calendar Link



Georgia Dressage & Combined Training Association

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ON THE COVER

Lawton Valdez on Fernhill All Style at the GDCTA End of Summer Finals Schooling Show 2024

Photo by Taylor Glatzer,
Custom Taylord Photography



Check us out

GDCTA.org

GMO

GROUP
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ORGANIZATION

OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX



GDCTA Seeks a Volunteer Coordinator.

The Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for overseeing Volunteer activities for organization events particularly dressage show.

A Volunteer Coordinator helps organize all aspects of volunteering, from recruiting new volunteers to promoting opportunities for people who want more hours in their schedule for the volunteer program.

They also keep event organizers informed about administrative changes, schedule changes, and who needs training or has experience, et cetera.

If this is your happy place, please contact Caren Caverly (ccaverly@comcast.net).

*Also seeking a Sponsorship Coordinator. Ask Caren for details!
ccaverly@comcast.net / 770-713-4025*

OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

Dear Members:

Spicy pumpkin ponies are out at all farms, so it must mean it's fall!

The 2024 show season ends on September 30th. Our first show of the 2025 award year is the Atlanta National Fall Dressage show at the Georgia Horse Park in Conyers on October 5-6. Make sure it's on your calendar! Details: <https://gdcta.org/event-5425341>. Enter at [HorseShow Office.com](https://HorseShowOffice.com).

There are also two clinics coming up – October 12 De-Spooking with Ed Dabney at Shannondale Farm in Milton and October 19-20 JJ Tate Dressage at Noble Steeds in Canton.

- The De-Spooking Clinic is full for riders. In the spirit of the season, we are offering the "Pumpkin Spice Spirit Award" to the best dressed fall/Halloween-themed participant or auditor!
- The JJ Tate Dressage clinic rider slots are full but we are taking a waiting list. Sign up on the website.
- Auditors are welcome at both! You can find both on the calendar <https://gdcta.org/events>.

With the close of the 2024 season, we move into Gala season! During Gala season, we establish eligibility in all the categories followed by tabulating the winners.

Here's a reminder about how things work: I manage the schooling show updates; For recognized dressage, USDF sends us a file of our members scores. I and another set of eyes review and compare to get to the qualified list and the results; For recognized eventing, Joanne and another pull the scores for each member from the USEA website manually, then there's a review to get to the qualified members and results. It's a long process that we do as carefully as possible to avoid mistakes, but we are all human...

We'll post the lists to the website <https://gdcta.org/Awards> to give you time to check your eligibility before the deadline and ask questions so that any errors are caught **before** we buy the ribbons.

As part of the Awards program, please note there have been changes to the Recognized Letterman Jacket Program. Please read the information on page 7 and get in touch with the appropriate program chairwoman.

Year-end Award Winner announcement emails will go out in December. Gala tickets will go on sale on or about December 15th.

Would you like to help with the Awards Gala? There are plenty of things to do: There's set up (early) and clean up (late); securing donations for the Silent Auction, Barn Basket Raffle, and Door Prizes; handing out the door prizes; helping to manage the silent auction item cash out / pick up, etc. Let me know if you want to be involved!

Our Nomination Committee, Liz Molloy and Lindsey Burns, are finalizing the list of Board of Directors candidates. We'll publish the biographies in the October newsletter and then send out ballots by email. Reach out to the committee if you have questions.

Liz Molloy missliz@taramiaridingschool.com / 770-634-4089

Lindsey Burns redheadlins@gmail.com / 208-861-2996

Caren

Caren Caverly
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LETTERMAN JACKET PROGRAM

for both USEF/USDF/USEA Recognized and Schooling Shows

Purpose:

To reward the student enrolled in school that is an equestrian athlete for their perseverance in their riding endeavors, this program wishes to acknowledge these youth riders' hard work and achievement throughout the levels.

Qualifications:

- Applicant must be a current GDCTA Member in the year in which scores are earned.
- Applicant is a Youth Rider **age of 22 or under** as of December 31, the year scores are earned.
- Applicant is concurrently enrolled in school/college with a **minimum of B or 3.0 average**. Proof of enrollment in school and student achievement is required (ie: report cards).
- Applicant must volunteer 8 hours through GDCTA or any non-profit, horse show, etc. Note that hours volunteered at GDCTA Hosted events will count double hours. Must submit a signed **Volunteer Credit Form**.



Update on Recognized Letterman Jacket Program:

We have worked hard to keep this program afloat as the joy on the faces of those earning their jackets and patches is a highlight of the Gala every year. Just like any business or family, sometimes budgets are tight and sometimes we can make it rain money (not actually, but one can dream). With two years of not hosting the region 3 dressage championships, we have had to tighten the purse strings. A strict budget may not be fun, but it does ensure the longevity of the club and the many ways we try

to enrich our Georgia horse community. We have long subsidized the recognized letterman program, but this year we can no longer absorb that cost. You will see a big jump in the price of the jackets, please know it is still not a profitable venture. This is a breakeven price. Turns out traditional letterman jackets are spendy. It is an absolute privilege for us to run this program and see our young equestrian athletes get recognized, and we hope to enjoy this program for years to come. We encourage our letterman athletes to get creative and earn some dollars to put towards their new jackets - bake sale, tack cleaning, mane pulling, arena mirror cleaning, etc. We will be happy to share their ventures to help spread the word.

To find the Letterman Jacket Applications, please visit the website <https://gdcta.org/Programs>



“Recognized” Program: Direct questions to Lacey Halstead wholehorsesaddlefit@gmail.com

“Schooling Show” Program: Direct questions to Joanne Morse joannemorse1@yahoo.com

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SAVE *the* DATE



GDCTA AWARDS GALA
FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Autumn brings with it the feeling that we're off to the races. The lazy, slow days of summer are behind us and now it's back to managing all the moving pieces — we've got two great ways to keep your days on track: education and competition. With our clinics and dressage shows, we've got you covered for both! But there's a third component — recognition for your accomplishments. Our year-end awards motivate & inspire our members to strive for their best outcomes.

The GDCTA Awards Gala is the night we honor our members' competitive spirits with year-end and a variety of special awards. Details and winner announcements will be coming, but we are already putting things together to make it an extra special event for you, our members.

Would you consider making a donation to the GDCTA Awards Gala silent auction?

The Awards Gala is the biggest fundraiser for GDCTA with a portion of the proceeds going to UGA Vet School and the rest used to fund all the organization's events and activities for the coming year or longer if the auction is super successful. If you would like to make a financial donation, we welcome those too! Go to the website to donate here: <https://gdcta.org/Donate>

OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

Event Details:

- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Time:** Doors open at 5:00 PM
- **Location:** Atlanta Marriott Alpharetta, Alpharetta, GA

GDCTA is seeking product donations for the silent auction, door prizes, and party favors (sample-sized items). Donations need not be horse related. All contributions are welcome – both products that interest your fellow equine enthusiasts for the horse or personally. Donations need not be horse related. If you make your donation early, we have more time to publicize your donation and ensure that your contribution will appear in the Awards Gala Program.

All contributions are welcome – both products that interest your fellow equine enthusiast for the horse, as well as personally. Some popular items include:

- Themed Gift Baskets/Muck Buckets
- Tack and Services
- Spa Treatments
- Books
- Vacation Getaways, Hotel and Time-Share Stays
- Jewelry
- Tickets to Social, Cultural or Athletic Events
- Gift Certificates to National Restaurants or Stores
- Exclusive and unique items are always a favorite!

Feel free to be creative! Fill a basket or muck bucket with goodies made by local crafters or gourmet food and wine. Arrange a gift basket with movies filmed in your region, complete with popcorn. Donate a camping trip, behind-the-scenes tour, tickets to a sporting event, white water rafting, etc. Arrange a round of golf with a local celebrity. Remember that presentation is key! In order to attract bidders, be creative and explicit with the description and display of your item and take a photo before you send it.

Please make your donation by January 20th so we can include it in our advertising and place it in the auction, as appropriate. Include a donation form on the event link <https://gdcta.org/event-5587099> with your items, or request one at admin@gdcta.org.

All silent auction bidding will be done online here <https://gdcta.cbo.io>. We'll have it set up to view in December.

Can't wait to see what is in the auction this year! Your donations are always so creative and fun or useful and needed. Thank you!

The Gala Committee

CHAIR Caren Caverly, ccaverly@comcast.net

Did you know that as a member...

...you will receive complimentary issues of the award winning *USDF Connection*?



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YOUR CONNECTION TO THE LOCAL DRESSAGE COMMUNITY

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GDCTA End of Summer Finals Schooling Show

August 31 - September 1, 2024

Georgia International Horse Park
Conyers, GA

SPECIAL AWARDS

Saturday

Best Score CT: Chelsea White, Elegant Enterprise 26.00%

High Point Dressage: Ella Diehl, Etitano 77.180%

Sunday

Best Score CT: Lela Kirtland, OMG He's Tote Adorb 32.00%

High Point Dressage: Ella Diehl, Etitano 79.000%

Busiest Trainer: Nicky Robertston

Team Saturday: LoPresti Equestrians

Team Sunday: LoPresti Equestrians

CHAMPIONS

Dressage Seat Medal Finals (13 & Under): Austin Hermann

Lisa Seger Insurance AA Medal Finals: Kimberly Presley



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Congratulations to Elizabeth Molloy, recipient of the Corinne F. Gray Memorial Award. The Award is given in honor of a woman who spent her life trying to help children and adults alike enjoy all aspects of horse care, competition, and companionship.

Liz is the owner of Taramia Riding School and United States Pony Club Riding Center where she has been teaching since 2004. Five of her students qualified for USPC Championships this summer in Games and Quiz, winning Silver and Bronze medals; two of her students qualified for USDF Region 3 Regional Championships this September. She joined the Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association Board in 2012 to bring Lendon Gray's Dressage4Kids Atlanta Youth Festival to Georgia and she just hosted the 11th Annual Atlanta Youth Festival and TEAM (Training, Education, And Mentoring) clinic. Atlanta is the only TEAM clinic in the country with a Festival and boasts that we are the largest clinic in the country for Dressage4Kids. Liz also brought the GDCTA Recognized Letterman Program into fruition, which in 2019 celebrated its highest number of jackets and new patches earned and which continues to grow. She also created the GDCTA Schooling Show Dressage Seat Medal Program which mirrors the USDF National DSE program. Since 2015, she is the North American Youth Championships Region 3 Program Coordinator and Chef d'Equipe, bringing in 6 gold and 1 silver medals for Young Riders and Junior teams in 2024. Her passion is to bring awareness to the FEI Children's Test and Liz is looking forward to hosting the Region 3 Youth Clinic with George Williams in November

Many thanks to Liz for her dedication to Dressage!

~Lendon Gray and Dressage4kids

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GDCTA presents

JJ Tate Dressage Clinic

October 19-20, 2024

Noble Steeds LLC
3452 Arbor Hill Rd
Canton, GA 30115

GDCTA.org



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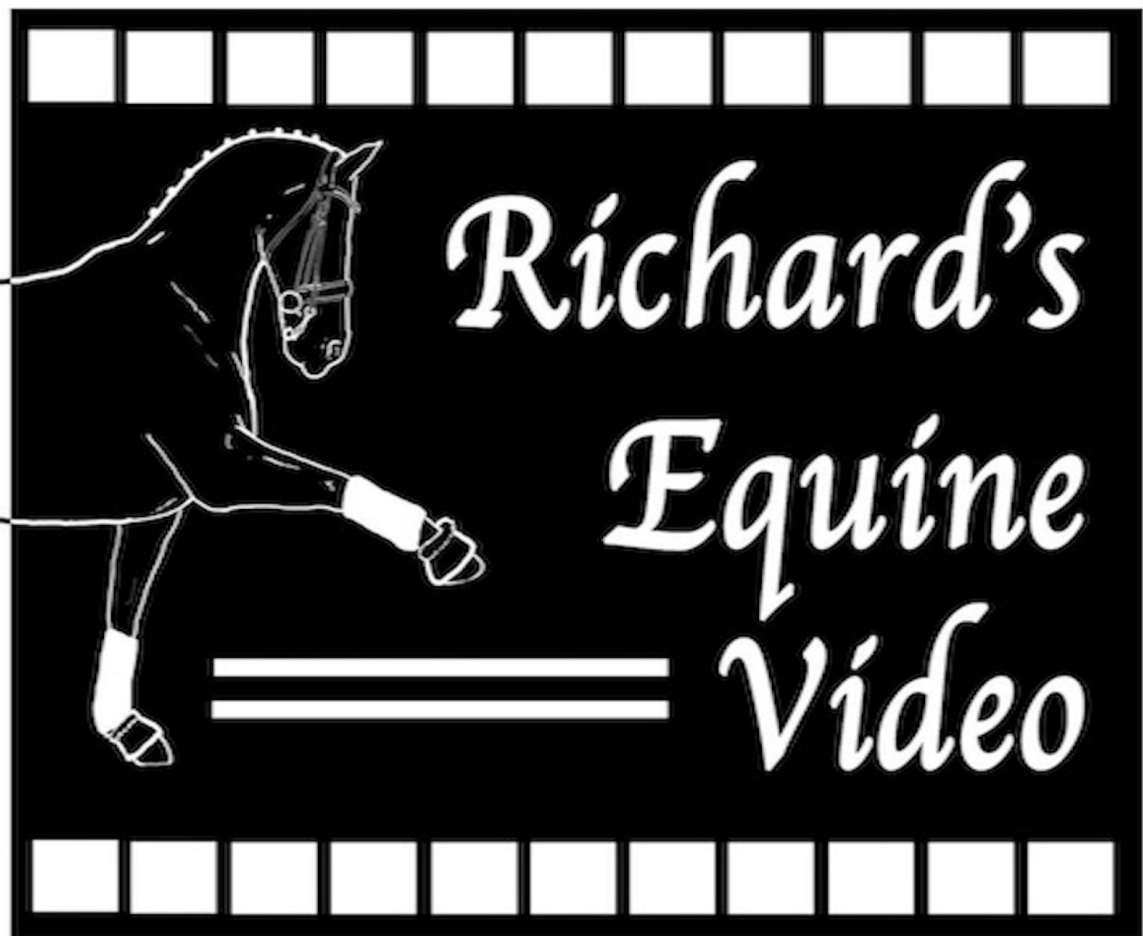
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Bigger Isn't Always Better

By Janie Pride

This story is reprinted from YourDressage.org July 10, 2024



Writer Janie Pride with her Dutch Ponies Ilja (left) and Ico (right)

Note, these photos are shared in a historical context. USDF strongly recommends all riders wear protective headgear when mounted.

In 1996, I took a wonderful trip to the Netherlands to look for a dressage pony. Little did I know then that this trip would change my dressage life. Earlier in the year, I was fortunate enough to meet Dutch rider and trainer Werner Geven when he came to Georgia to give a dressage clinic. At the time, I had a Thoroughbred Welsh pony cross. I rode with Werner every time he came to Poplar Place Farm for clinics, and I was incredibly impressed with his riding, his gracious personality, his ability to teach each rider in their own style, and his sense of the horse.

When I decided to look for a new pony, I knew that Werner was the only one I trusted to find the pony of my dreams. Though the attitude in America is “bigger is better,” I am very small, and I knew that we could find a very competitive pony overseas. I had no idea that I would come home with two ponies!

Werner had been training young riders on Mr. ALJ van Esch's fabulous [Nederlands Rijpaarden- en Ponystamboek](#) (NRPS; translation: Dutch Riding Horse and Pony Studbook) ponies, so we visited Mr. van Esch first. He showed us his stunning stallions – including the brilliant Idzard – and a young stallion named Ilja, who was by Idzard. I fell in love with Ilja immediately and was astonished at his exciting gaits.



Werner had one other special pony for us to look at: a three-year-old NRPS gelding by Idzard, whom a client had purchased as a yearling for his eight-year-old daughter. Werner was impressed by this pony's outstanding temperament and gaits, and knew we had to see him.

My first impression of Ico was that he was cute, small, and fuzzy. I told Werner that he might not be what I was looking for, and he told me to “just wait.” Then, he turned Ico out in the indoor arena, and that pony soared. He had this fantastic trot that took my breath away. I rode him, and he felt incredible. He stole my heart!

I had fallen for two incredible ponies and could not choose between them. I called my husband, Sam, and



OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

asked him what I should do. To my great surprise, he said, “Get both of them.” I was shocked!! So, I did the only sensible thing – I brought both of them home to America with me.

Ilja and Ico had incredible successes in the show ring, earning many year-end awards through the Adequan®/USDF All-Breeds Awards program, the USDF Horse of the Year program, the National Dressage Pony Cup, the Performance Horse Registry’s Silver Stirrups Awards, and the Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association (GDCTA).

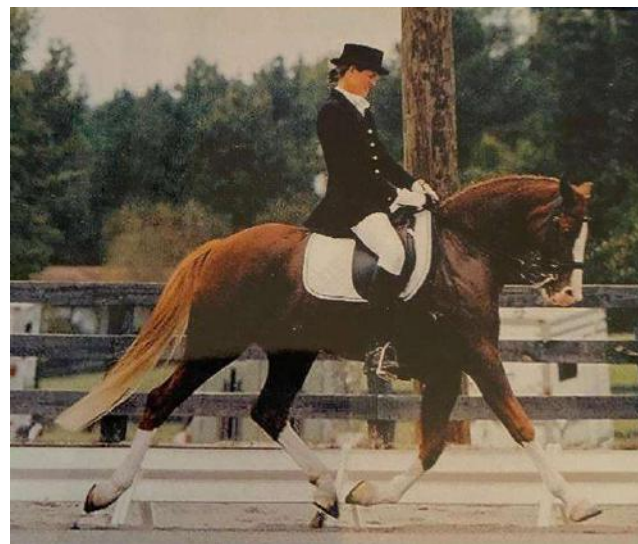
The road for Ico was truly amazing. He was incredibly talented and had a great mind, never saying “no” to any of his work. Everything came so easily for him: the flying changes, the pirouettes, the passage, and the tempi changes. Plus, he was perfect at shows; he could be taking a nap in his stall, get up to do a great Grand Prix test, and then go back to take another nap. Nothing in the ring or on the showgrounds bothered him – what a perfect pony.

I had many offers to buy Ico, but there just wasn’t enough money in the world for me to sell one of my boys.



Despite being Ico’s half-brother, Ilja’s show life and training were completely different. He was just as talented, but very sensitive to his surroundings and sounds, and was very spooky. He could have an awful test or a brilliant ride. Ico showed up to Intermediate 1, in both the test and freestyle, with his scores ranging from 58% to 77%. He was a very sweet pony, and I had many offers for him, too!!

Werner Geven and his wife, Marjolein, trained, rode, and showed both Ico and Ilja, and both ponies have helped seven riders earn their USDF Bronze and Silver Rider Medals and Freestyle Bars.



The ponies showed extensively in the South, but the show we waited for and anticipated most each year was the National Dressage Pony Cup. We made the trip to Pony Cup nine times. When I first read about Pony Cup all those years ago, I *knew* that this was the show for us – a show JUST for ponies! We packed our bags and

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headed for Kentucky.

Ilja and his rider, Billy Jackson, competed at Pony Cup all the way from Training Level through I-1, including the I-1 Musical Freestyle. Ico showed through Grand Prix.

We were always excited to show amongst such outstanding ponies. It's truly amazing what the show organizer and originator, Jenny Carol, has done with this show. Unless you've been to the show, you will never be able to appreciate her efforts. Every year, she goes out of her way to add new, exciting features. One year, she had [Axel Steiner](#)! What a huge deal. We were thrilled to be interviewed by Axel. The commentaries,



interviews, and rides were streamed on USEF Network. They also added a Young Pony Futurity and Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes that year.

Jenny offers amazing awards at Pony Cup: ribbons, wool coolers, trophies, vases, and other goodies, as well as goodie bags for the competitors and their ponies.

The Awards Ceremony is so exciting. Everyone turns out in their best attire – including white polo wraps – for photos, awards, and victory gallops. My ponies have both won numerous awards through the years, including Champion Open Grand Prix, and one year, Ilja



was Champion I-1 Adult Amateur Pony, Reserve Champion Musical Freestyle, and Champion Dutch



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Pony. I was a very proud mom.

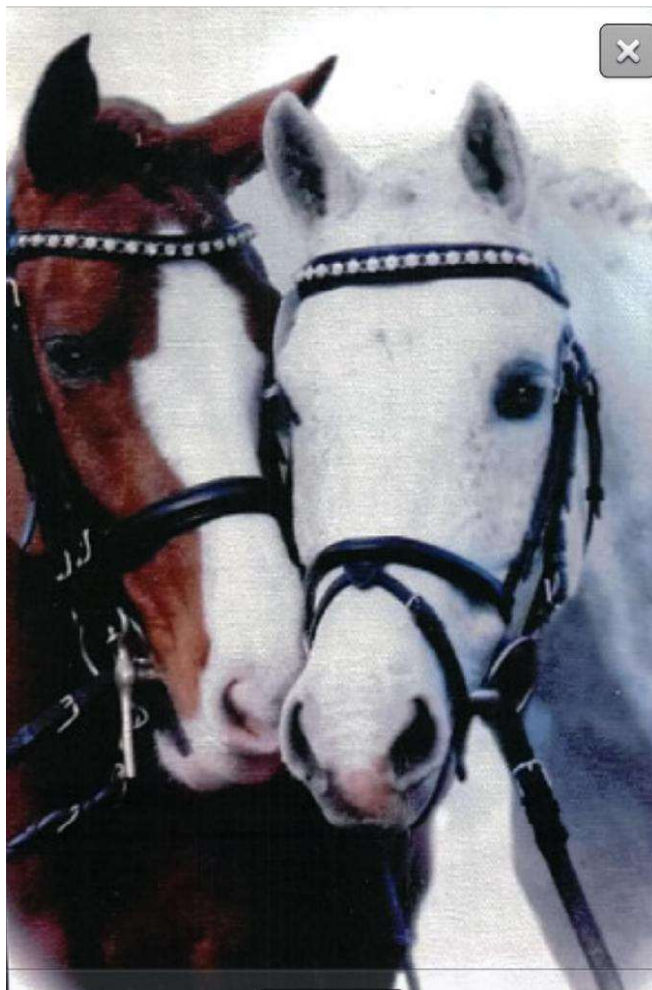
We also made some of our best friends at Pony Cup. Our group keeps in touch throughout the year and make plans to stable together at the next Pony Cup. We share each other's successes and errors and are always there to cheer each other on! It has become a very special group.



It's been an amazing journey with Ico and Ilja. I lost my dear Ico three years ago, and his half-brother, Ilja, is



retired and happy. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would have a Grand Prix pony and an I-1 pony, who was schooling the Grand Prix movements when he retired.



After finding so much success with Ico and Ilja, I am very active with ponies now; I sponsor pony awards through my local GMO, GDCTA, and I work with youth riders who ride and show ponies, and I serve on the USDF National Youth Programs Committee.

I thank Werner and Marjolein for finding, training, and showing both ponies, and Mr. ALJ van Esch of the Netherlands for breeding my special boys. Additionally, I thank my husband Sam for supporting me!! I also thank my riders Marjolein Geven, Billy Jackson, Elle Turner, Maylyn Hinson, Blair Bowers, Meredith Mobley, Anna Swenson, and Kate May for their time and efforts with the boys!

But the biggest and best thanks of all goes to Ico and Ilja!!

OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX



It's been a terrific ride with these [dressage ponies](#)!!



Atlanta Fall National Dressage

O C T O B E R 5 - 6 , 2 0 2 4

Georgia Horse Park
Conyers, GA



USEF/USDF

GDCTA.org

2025 Show
Season

Atlanta Fall National Dressage – Competitors, Are You Ready?

October 5-6

Georgia International Horse Park
Conyers, GA

Entries are open through Sept 23rd with late entries accepted through Sept 26th! If you plan to attend this show, please enter now so we can make it happen. It should be a small show and if it's too small we'll have to cancel it...

Enter: Horseshowoffice.com

Join us for the highly anticipated Atlanta Fall National Dressage show, a cornerstone of the 2025 show season! Hosted by GDCTA, this USEF Level 2 Competition will be an Official Qualifying event for the 2025 GAIG/USDF Regional Dressage Championships. Hosted by GDCTA, this event promises top-tier competition and expert judging from Sue Kolstad and Cheryl Holekamp.

Thank you, Sponsors: Lisa Seger Insurance, Riding Warehouse, The Harbin Agency

GDCTA members: Your scores count twice toward year-end awards!

Volunteers needed! Earn hours toward the Liz Faso Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award. Contact Caren Caverly at ccaverly@comcast.net to sign up.

Good luck and happy riding!

Discovering the FEI North American Youth Dressage Championship

By Alice Burley

For the past 8 years I have attended the Dressage4Kids clinics where the Region 3 North American Youth Team members would come show their medals and tell us their stories. Although I always wanted to be one of those riders, I fully understood how hard it was to become one. Living in the most competitive region in the country, just making the team is an accomplishment. Especially riding a retired jumper, who just a few years ago started her transition to dressage, I knew it would not be easy. Getting CiCi (S. Classic Conversion cav-i) in December 2022, we spent the 2023 season just putting show miles on CiCi at third level and trying to get her to understand that dressage shows need to be BORING (compared to the hyped-up jumper rounds). Knowing that 2024 was my last year as a junior, we needed to just do the best we could. With my trainer, Leah Marks always at my side, we began trying to qualify.



By focusing on the national shows, we were able to get some solid scores with an average of 66.109, we made the final spot on the team. I don't believe I have ever been more excited. Not only was I going to ride for Region 3, but I was going to get to ride with two of my dear friends, Virginia Woodcock and Alexis Troutman. Our fourth rider, from Florida was Justine Boyer. I had the pleasure of meeting her last year when I volunteered at NAYC along with my mom. It was going fun team along with being extremely competitive.

Upon arrival, we received a ton of amazing swag organized by Virginia Woodcock and our amazing sponsors, including GDCTA! We joked that even if we didn't pass the jog, we would at least look great. Luckily, all four of our horses DID pass the jog on Tuesday. Wednesday was the Juniors Team competition day. I rode first, and I knew that I needed to keep my nerves in check. Riding an extremely sensitive horse can be hard at a national show, but at a CDI I knew that CiCi would be tense. It was my job to just manage the tension to the best of my ability. Being judged by 5 judges, I knew the scoring would be tough. We had some really good moments, but several bobbles as well. Next up was Alexis, and she and her horse Happy Feet absolutely killed it. Both Virginia and Justine delivered high scoring rides as well. In a tight race, our team won the gold medal. It felt like a fairytale. I was so grateful just to be there and a part of such an amazing team.

Friday was the Individual day. Our test started out very well, and we even got through the walk with a 66+. Unfortunately, CiCi hit the fence board accidentally in her canter upwards and it scared her. It went back to just managing tension from that point on. CiCi is full of try and go, and we will continue to work on the woah. I was really proud of her for absolutely trying her best.

On the whole, the experience was amazing. Of course, some things can always go better, and I still

DRESSAGE

think about all the things we must work on and improve, but I loved my teammates. Along with the Young Riders, we had a blast. I learned a lot and hope to take some of those learnings into Festival of Champions next week.

We had the support of so many sponsors including: GDCTA, Leah Marks Dressage, Ellenwood Equestrian Center, my family, and amazing support from my barn family. Thank you all for making my dream come true.



The awesome Region 3 Juniors team won gold!



Trainer Karen Lipp and Virginia Woodcock after the Junior Individual win.



Rolling the new Region 3 team polos with the Georgia Junior riders.



All of our horses successfully pass the jog.
Go Region 3 Junior Team!

FEI North American Youth Championships

By Virginia Woodcock

“Thank you for the opportunity to receive the grant from GDCTA to NAYC. I appreciate it so much!”

--Virginia

My name is Virginia Woodcock. I am a 16-year-old dressage rider from Atlanta, Georgia. Despite no one in my family being horse people, I developed a fascination for horses at a young age. I began riding when I was 5 years old. Since then, I've never stopped. I fell in love with dressage and began showing Training level at the age of 10. I worked through Training level to Third Level and earned my Bronze medal with distinction this past year. I have also been able to compete in two different FEI divisions, Children's and Juniors. My trainer is Karen Lipp of Stal810 in Ball Ground.

I competed in my first international competition last year at the North American Youth Championships. In my first year there, the Region 3 team brought home Silver, and I placed in the top six in both individual competitions. Returning this year, I was hoping to improve on my performance. On our first day of competition myself and my three Region 3 teammates rode our way to a Team Gold medal. Riding the best I ever had and having such an incredibly willing partner at NAYC this year led me to earn two individual golds in the Junior Individual and Freestyle later in the week.

Situated in Traverse City, Michigan, the North American Youth Championships is by far my favorite competition. The environment is incredible. Being able to compete with a team in an international competition is fantastic. It is very unique in that way. Bonding with your team and

coming together to compete does not happen often in Dressage. Having that opportunity is a blessing in and of itself.

I am so lucky to have competed and brought home gold with my incredible teammates Alice Burley, Alexis Troutman, and Justine Boyer. Having such an amazing group of girls to compete with made my experience 10 times better. We continuously supported each other and had a great time together. Having our team consist of three Georgia riders (myself, Alice, and Alexis) is a testament to the amazing barns, trainers, and organizations in our state.



The victory lap with my partner, Souci.

Eventing Camp 2024: Bigger, Better, Badass

By Joanne Morse

GDCTA and Area 3 Young Riders were lucky to co-host their summer eventing camp this year at Bouckaert Farm in Fairburn, Georgia. This is the third year in a row that GDCTA has organized this camp, but it was the first year we joined forces with Area 3 Young Riders. The result was epic, with 82 horse and rider combinations participating this year. This was huge growth - there were 27 riders in 2022 and 50 riders in 2023. It is safe to say that the response to this event has been very encouraging. While I am over the moon with this response, the stress of organizing such a large event caused many sleepless nights. At the moment, there are no plans to expand the event. My mental health is grateful for this decision. Haha!

Running any event requires certain boxes to be checked to be successful:

Step 1: Find a facility. We are beyond blessed to have the beautiful Bouckaert Farm located just down the road. It is the perfect venue for a camp of this size with its many rings and vast cross-country course. There is plenty of room for stabling as well as hookups for camping. The quiet serenity of the place creates an atmosphere that makes for a perfect week away for a rider and their horse. The team at Bouckaert Farm is also hands down the best! Hugh Lochore was part of my planning process every step of the way. His knowledge of running large events was vital in helping us grow to the size we did this year. Greg Hollister and Bradley Foster, two long-time employees at Bouckaert, were also a huge help in getting the show jump courses built and the barns set up for the horses. Last but not least, Penny Morse, who runs the office, helped me coordinate stabling with the schooling show that was happening the weekend before and taught me the RV layout... Thanks, Mom!

Step 2: Find some amazing trainers who are willing to come teach for 3 days during the week when we are mid-show season. The timing for this camp

couldn't be more perfect. We always schedule it the week after Bromont. Many of our trainers compete at that event and head down right afterward to get settled in to start their week of teaching. This year we had seven trainers: Sara Kozumplik, Lynn Symansky, Hannah Sue Hollberg, Sharon White, Ashley Johnson, Waylon Roberts, and Michael Pollard. I know I am not biased when I say that we could not have had a better team of professional riders and trainers this year. The knowledge they bring to the table is superior. They all have the positive work ethic and attitude that make the long, complex days flow smoothly. I am very lucky to regard them all as friends, and they make the whole event so much fun just by being themselves.

Step 3: Find riders to attend. I remember the first year I organized this camp, I had to beg people to sign up. We had 27 amazing riders and so much fun that first year. Being in Area 3, we are a very concentrated area for eventers. I am not surprised that we grew as fast as we did. We started off this year with the idea of 66 spots to be considered "full." We filled that in less than 24 hours. That was when we started mulling over the idea of adding an additional trainer to let in people on the ever-growing waitlist. It was my ultimate goal to not turn anyone away who wanted to come. I think my favorite saying is, "I'll figure it out." Which I always do.

Step 4: Find people to help. I cannot thank the people that helped me out enough. It took a team leading up to the event as well as during the week. I have mentioned several people above that helped me out with camp this year. I do not want to leave out Ashley Giles Boyd, Samantha Bielawski, Mary Campbell, Crystal Weyrauch, and Jessica Robinette. You guys were epic! I cannot express how grateful I am for you all. You were definitely the reason that I did not cry as much this year! Ha!

GDCTA and AREA III Eventing Camp 2024!!!



Once we get those boxes checked then it all comes down to organizing, making camp the absolute best that it's ever been. We changed things up a little this year. Historically we would have unmounted sessions happening through the day for riders to attend. The problem we were having though was that riders were either unable to attend lectures because they were riding or because they were wanting to watch a particular lesson. So, this year we completely did away with the short lectures during the day. Instead, we replaced them with a Cross Country conceptual talk each morning for the riders that would be schooling cross country that day. This was very well received and seemed to be a big hit. This also allowed the riders to be more available to help jump crew in the afternoons. Ashley Johnson did a Sports Psychology lecture on the Tuesday evening that was so informative. Then on the Wednesday evening we had a fabulous dinner cooked for us by Brooke Lochore followed by a Q&A session with our trainers that was also a huge hit.

At the end of the day, this camp was a huge success. We had some bumps in the road that come with running any event of this size. A brief discussion on burning sage may have happened on the Wednesday after one ambulance ride and a burnt living quarters... When you look at the big picture though we had a fantastic week where a community came together to grow and learn in their sport with their horses. Our trainers were once again amazing, and I cannot put into words the gratitude that I have for their support of this event. I never know what the next year will look like, but I can assure you that I plan on it being just as special as it has been every year so far.

GDCTA Board 2024

OFFICERS

President: Caren Caverly
VP Dressage: Abigail Kroupa
VP Eventing: Joanne Morse
Treasurer: Peter West
Corresponding Secretary: Carol Tresan
Recording Secretary: Ashley Boyd

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Lindsey Burns
Lacey Halstead
Liz Molloy
Janie Pride
Danielle Perry
Julie Shannon

YOUTH MEMBERS

TBA

*The 2024 Board was seated at the
January 15th meeting*



Committees 2024

- 1) Nominating – 2 Non outgoing board members.
- 2) Grievance – 2 VP's and only if there is a complaint.
- 3) Finance
 - a. Chair – Peter West
 - b. Sponsorship – Caren Caverly
- 4) Awards -
 - a. Grants –Janie Pride
- 5) Award Banquet -
 - a. Chair – Caren Caverly
 - b. Silent Auction – Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa & Lacey Halstead
 - c. Barn Raffle – Julie Shannon & Katie Patton
- 6) Education –
 - a. Chair – Julie Shannon
 - b. Clinics – Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
 - c. Kudzu – Danielle Perry & Lacey Halstead
 - d. L Program – Marian Bickers
- 7) Youth -
 - a. Chair – Joanne Morse, Abigail Kroupa
 - b. Schooling or Grassroots – **Open**
 - c. Recognized – Liz Molloy, Janie Pride
 - d. Collegiate – Amanda Garner
- 8) Communication -
 - a. Chair – Joanne Morse
 - b. Yearbook – Penny Morse, June Brewer
 - c. Newsletter – Penny Morse, June Brewer
 - d. Website – June Brewer
 - e. Social Media – June Brewer, Abigail Kroupa
 - f. Membership – Mary Lou Freil
- 9) Show –
 - a. Chair – Julie Shannon
 - b. Recognized – Caren Caverly
 - c. Schooling – Caren Caverly
 - 1 Horse Show Recognition – Carol Tresan
 - d. Volunteer Coordinator – **Open**
 - e. 50th Anniversary - **Open**

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Collected Remarks is the official publication of the Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association, Inc.

(GDCTA), a non-profit, exempt corporation organized under Section 501© (3). It is the monthly newsletter designed to inform, educate and entertain the membership. The Editors encourage members to submit original advertising, articles, photographs, and artwork for possible publication. The editors of 'Collected Remarks' reserve the right to reject any advertising or article deemed to be unsuitable for this newsletter.

- Editorial contributions of 600 words or less (accompanied by photos with permission to publish, if applicable) are welcomed although publication cannot be guaranteed.
- GDCTA is not responsible for the opinions and statements expressed in signed articles or paid advertisements.

GDCTA Collected Remarks welcomes submissions of quality color dressage and sport-horse photographs. All mounted riders must be wearing appropriate headgear (a safety helmet, a derby, or a top hat). Photos must be accompanied by complete captions, including the full names of all subjects.

For print, only high resolution (300dpi) Jpeg or PDF files will be accepted.

Please submit electronically to designonpenny@yahoo.com and webmaster@gdcta.org.

DISCLOSURE

- Complete GDCTA Board of Directors meeting minutes are available upon request to the Recording Secretary.
- Financial records are available upon written request to the Treasurer.
- For information regarding Awards, Show Recognition, Membership, Education, or the Web Site, contact the appropriate chairperson on the website Contact Us page.

Thank you for you

Before we list the GDCTA GOATs, we must clarify who those GOATs are. T

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Eliot Axt
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Bits & Bytes Farm
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Amy Hoffield
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Awards Gala

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 Taramia Pony Club
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 The Dressage Foundation
 The Mane Monogram
 The Riding School

The Snooty Fox
 The Woodcock Family
 Tough 1
 Triple Crown Feed
 UGA
 Unlimited Dressage
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GOAT—Greatest Of All Time

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Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association

Regular Meeting
June 17, 2024



Board Meeting

President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on June 17, 2024, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Secretary Ashley Boyd performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Peter West, Joanne Morse, Ashley Boyd, Lindsey Burns, Julie Shannon, Carol Tresan, Lacey Halstead, Danielle Perry, Liz Molloy, and Janie Pride were present. The minutes of the regular meeting May 20, 2024, were emailed to board members prior to meeting. Joanne made a motion to accept the May minutes. Lindsey seconded. Minutes approved. Minutes were voted on and approved by the board.

Treasurer's Report – (Peter): April had a \$3,000 loss primarily because of Yearbook cost. Membership income of about \$5,000. In May lost about \$12,000.

VP Dressage Report – (Abigail): Nothing to report.

VP Combined Training – (Joanne): Camp was last week which was exciting and fun. Ashley and Sam assisted during camp which was helpful. Everybody had an amazing week. One rider had an injury, and it was handled efficiently. Wednesday a horse trailer caught fire, but everything was handled efficiently by the fire department. The trainers had a great time. The sports physiology was very well attended and enjoyed. The schedule was efficient and at times people were doing cross country, show jumping, and dressage. GDCTA and Area 3 made roughly \$10,000. The coffee vendor canceled last minute so Joanne's husband stepped in and got it for us. It was a bigger camp than before. Peter commented that revenue was around \$75,000. The board congratulated Joanne on a successful week. Janie will send a get-well card to the injured rider for the GDCTA.

Membership Report – (Mary Lou): Nothing to report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communication** (Joanne): Newsletter going out this week. They are finishing the cover.
- **Show Committee** (Julie): Dog Day assignments went out to the board. A request for classes, division, and arenas sponsorship. There is an advertising package as well. Lacey oversees the vendors and asks them to stay a little later. Danielle has the L program and is working on setting it up.
- **Finance** (Peter): Nothing to report
- **Youth Program** (Joanne): Nothing to report
- **Awards** (Janie): All applications are in, and they are working on decision.
- **Education** (Julie): Shelly Francis clinic is this weekend.
- **Gala** (Caren): Joanne already has buckets for door prizes. Date is Feb 1st
- **Nominating** (Liz & Lindsey): Talking to people

OLD BUSINESS

- **Email Blasts** – (Caren): Sponsorship for Dog Days of Summer. Shelly Francis auditing, D4K, Sign up for table decorating contest at Dog Days.

NEW BUSINESS

- **New member welcome for July:** Janie

Janie motioned to adjourn; Julie seconded. Board voted to adjourn.

Next meeting is the budget meeting on September 16, 2024, on Zoom at 7 pm.



NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

For information about advertising in the *Collected Remarks* newsletter, please email:

webmaster@gdcta.org

Ad space is limited. Scheduled ads are due by the 5th of the month prior to publication. Information about advertising is also available online at:

GDCTA.org/advertise

The deadline for articles is also the 5th of the month prior to publication. Advertisements and Articles should be emailed to: webmaster@gdcta.org

The advertisements contained herein are paid advertisements. The information is provided by the service provider. The GDCTA makes no specific recommendations for any particular company, individual, or service.



ORGANIZE A GDCTA-RECOGNIZED SCHOOLING SHOW

If you are organizing a schooling show and wish to have it GDCTA Recognized (so riders can use the scores towards our year-end awards), submit the Recognition form. Shows won't be added to our calendars until the Recognition form is received.

Please review the other information and specifications/guidelines we have provided. For specific questions regarding recognition procedures, email Carol Tresan at Happy_horses@hotmail.com

Recognition details:
<https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/GDCTA-Recognition>

Are You Thinking About Taking Your Dressage Or Eventing Game Off The Farm & Heading to a Show?

There's no doubt about it—watching horse competitions can and will leave you in awe. At its highest competitive level, eventing is recognized as one of the three Olympic equestrian disciplines alongside both dressage and jumping. In dressage the precision and harmony of between the rider and horse is almost always flawless, and much like a horse dancing, fluidly going through the movements. However, as an equestrian knows, dressage is not an easy feat, and it takes years of careful training. Eventing offers the additional thrills and chills of jumping in both cross country and stadium.

Are you thinking about taking your dressage or eventing game off the farm and heading to a show? Showing is the next logical step if you've been riding for a while. Showing offers a method to measure your progress and celebrate how far you and your horse have come. Although competition might seem intimidating, it doesn't have to be! All it takes is a little preparation.

Schooling shows offer several advantages for riders and horses. Here are some key benefits:

- **Skill Development and Practice:** Schooling shows provide a **lower-pressure environment** for riders and horses to gain experience and practice their skills. Unlike official competitions, there's less strict adherence to rules, allowing participants to focus on improving their performance.
- **Test Ride Different Facilities:** These shows allow riders to "test ride" different facilities. It's an opportunity to explore various venues and decide which ones suit you and your horse best before committing to recognized shows or more significant events.
- **Cost-Effective:** Schooling shows are usually more frequent and smaller in scale, catering to local communities. They offer an **affordable alternative** to recognized shows, making them accessible for riders at various levels.
- **Trust and Partnership:** Participating in schooling shows fosters trust and partnership between horse and rider. The consistent exposure to the show environment helps build confidence and strengthens the bond between the two.
- **Artistry and Beauty:** Dressage is an art form, and schooling shows allow riders to showcase the **beauty and artistry** of the discipline. It's a chance to demonstrate the harmonious communication between horse and rider.

In summary, schooling shows serve as valuable steppingstones for riders, providing a supportive platform to refine their skills and enjoy the journey of dressage.

GDCTA Recognized Schooling Shows have their own calendar on the website.

<https://gdcta.org/schooling-shows>



2024

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