

April 2026

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On the Cover - Caitlyn Bennett on Scrimshaw (Tiger) at the GDCTA Spring Fling Schooling Show at Wills Park Equestrian Center. *Photo by Stephanie Finnell of Premium Image Photography*

GDCTA is a Group Member Organization of USDF



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GDCTA HORSE OF THE MONTH



Submit your stories to webmaster@gdcta.org

LIZ FASO MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Join Us As A Volunteer
Volunteering is fun & educational!

GDCTA.org/Volunteer

Sponsored by Bouckaert Farm

GDCTA



Dear Members:

As we step fully into spring, I'm reminded how this season always seems to mirror our sport: everything waking up, stretching forward, growing into its next shape. It's a good time to remember that growth isn't about going it alone. Connection is not weakness—it's the foundation of every thriving system. And nowhere is that more evident than in the GDCTA community.

We saw that spirit on full display at the Spring Fling Schooling Show on April 11–12. Schooling shows are where so many riders take their first brave steps into the arena, and where seasoned competitors return to refine, experiment, and reconnect with the joy of learning. They're also where our volunteers shine. Every scribe, ring steward, runner, and awards helper is part of the "mycelial network" that keeps our organization alive and growing. If you volunteered at Spring Fling—or at any event this year—thank you. You make the magic possible.

This month's issue is packed with stories that reflect that same web of support: training grants that help riders stretch into new opportunities, recognition for GMO volunteers across the country, and a look at our new high-performance awards shaping the future of our sport. You'll also find details on the Region 3 Championships and AFND sponsor benefits, plus a wonderful feature on groundwork as "the first dance"—a reminder that every partnership begins with connection.

As we look ahead, our calendar continues to fill with clinics, educational programs, and competitions. Sponsors and vendors play a huge role in making these offerings possible, and we're grateful for every business that chooses to invest in our riders and our mission. If you know someone who might want to join us as a sponsor or vendor, we'd love to welcome them into the fold.

And because community isn't just built in the barn aisle, we're exploring special fundraising days with partners like Kendra Scott Jewelry and Bella MedSpa. These events would be a fun way to gather socially while supporting GDCTA programs—so keep an eye out for updates.

Thank you for being part of this vibrant, interconnected community. Whether you're riding down centerline, cheering from the rail, volunteering behind the scenes, or supporting from afar, you are part of the rhythm that keeps GDCTA moving forward.

I can't wait to see you out there this season—growing, connecting, and celebrating the journey together.

Warm regards,

Caren

Caren Caverly
President, GDCTA
ccaverly@comcast.net
770-713-4025



GREATER ATLANTA DRESSAGE SOUTHERN I & II

MAY 9-10, 2026

GEORGIA HORSE PARK
1996 CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC PARKWAY
CONYERS, GA

GDCTA.org

HorseShowOffice.com



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OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER:

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HIGHTIMEPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM, HIGHTIMEPHOTOS.COM

*MEMBER'S SCORES FROM THIS SHOW COUNT TWICE TOWARD
GDCTA YEAR-END AWARDS!!*

Groundwork: The First Dance

by Désirée Braganza and Elizabeth King

Opening Steps

Dressage rider Elizabeth King and I were talking about groundwork. Not techniques. Not systems. Not whether to lunge, long line, yield, or disengage. We were talking about synchrony.

Finding the Rhythm in the Living Feedback Loop

Horses are exquisitely attuned to one another's movement. In a herd, no one sends a memo. A shift in weight, a lift of the head, a change in breath and the others feel it. Movement ripples. Attention ripples. The herd becomes a living feedback loop.

Synchrony is not decorative. It is survival. Social glue. It is how equines pay attention together.

When Domestic Life Choreographs the Dance

Domestic life complicates this. Groups are formed by stall availability and fencing. A tall warmblood may live beside a compact pony, different stride lengths and motion. Plugging into one another takes practice.

Riding is similar. When a rider stays in synchrony with a horse, we say: she is a natural! When a rider influences movement with tact and timing, we see



Like dancers preparing for their first step, groundwork is where horse and human learn the rhythm of partnership.

a partnership. When synchrony breaks down, it shows immediately. Flow goes flat. Bodies look separate. They are no longer in a shared loop; they are on parallel tracks.

Ballroom Lessons: Two-Way Half Halts

Think ballroom dancing. Micro-signals pass between partners so the dance looks seamless. It is conversation. Half-halts are moments of rebalancing. Horses rebalance too. They shorten, shift weight, reorganize stride before a turn, transition, or change in attention.

The most fluent half-halts are not imposed. They are shared moments of reorganization sometimes initiated by the rider, sometimes offered by the horse, ideally recognized and met by the other.

On the ground, the same principles apply. Many systems of groundwork focus on exercise, obedience, precision, or control. But what if groundwork is first about relationship and rhythm?

Walking the Area First



Désirée finding the rhythm with her 17+ hand four-year-old dance partner.

GDCTA AND AREA 3 YOUNG RIDER EVENTING CAMP

Our Clinicians

Hannah Sue Burnett. Sara Kozumplik
Michael Pollard Lynn Symansky
Waylon Roberts Ashley Johnson
Sharon White

June 8 - 11, 2026
Stable View
Aiken, SC

GDCTA/Area 3 YR Members: \$1000
Non-members: \$1100
Starter thru Intermediate

Open to all ages!!!

Includes: Stabling, Facility Fees, Camp Shirt
Meals Mon Dinner
Tues/Wed (L & D) Thurs (L)

Auditing Available
One day auditing \$50
Three days \$125
Lunch included

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Monday - Move in day with facility hack, Pizza Party

Tuesday thru Thursday

- Two days of Morning Dressage and Afternoon Show Jumping
- One day of Cross Country Schooling followed by afternoon unmounted educational session.
- Tuesday Evening Sports Psychology with Ashley Johnson
- Wednesday Evening Group Photo in Camp shirt

For more details contact:

Joanne Morse

joannemorse1@yahoo.com



Elizabeth said, “I’m an English rider, and people are surprised by how much groundwork I do. I had a client bring a new horse and when I began by walking them around the arena, he said, “I’ve never seen anyone do that before!”

She walks with a horse to feel how they move: stiffness, protection, direction, body organization and how they organize together.

“My gait. How I move. I want to know how we go together on the ground because that translates directly to how we’ll go under saddle.”

Before we sit on a horse’s back, we have already declared ourselves through movement.

Learning the Partner

Elizabeth adds, “When I walk from paddock to barn with a horse, I pay attention to footsteps, mine and theirs. I notice whether I am hurrying them, whether they pull me, whether strides clash or braid. Often a moment clicks. The steps align. Not identical, aligned.”

Marching side by side can be deeply connective. Knowing which hoof falls when is invaluable for riding. Rhythm is measurable. Without rhythm, no relaxation. Without relaxation, no impulsion. Without impulsion, no collection.

Synchrony asks us to rethink space. Leading does not always mean shoulder to shoulder. Sometimes slightly ahead, behind, or farther away so the neck swings freely. The question is not: am I in the correct position? The question is: are we moving freely together?

Every horse has a signature way of moving, as do you. Groundwork studies that signature: where do I harmonize, interrupt, or block without realizing?

Simple Steps

Notice hoof falls. Notice your own. Experiment with tempo: lengthen, shorten, soften knees, slow

breathing. Feel when you and your horse are in synch. Influence if needed. Yield if needed.

But first, listen.

Groundwork is not preparation for riding. It is the first dance.



Spending time together: Elizabeth observing how two horses organize their movement on the ground.

About the Authors

Désirée Braganza, EdD, EBQ is an applied ethologist trained through the Natural Animal Centre in South Africa and a member of [Bodhi Horse Practice](#). Her work focuses on the lived experience of domesticated horses, integrating behavior, environment and human interaction. Based in Monroe, Georgia, she consults internationally in person and virtually.

Elizabeth King is a USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist with a lifelong background in dressage, barn management and horse care. She is the founder of [Equine Balanced Support](#), providing research informed, individualized nutrition programs for horses across disciplines. She consults nationwide from New York and Florida.

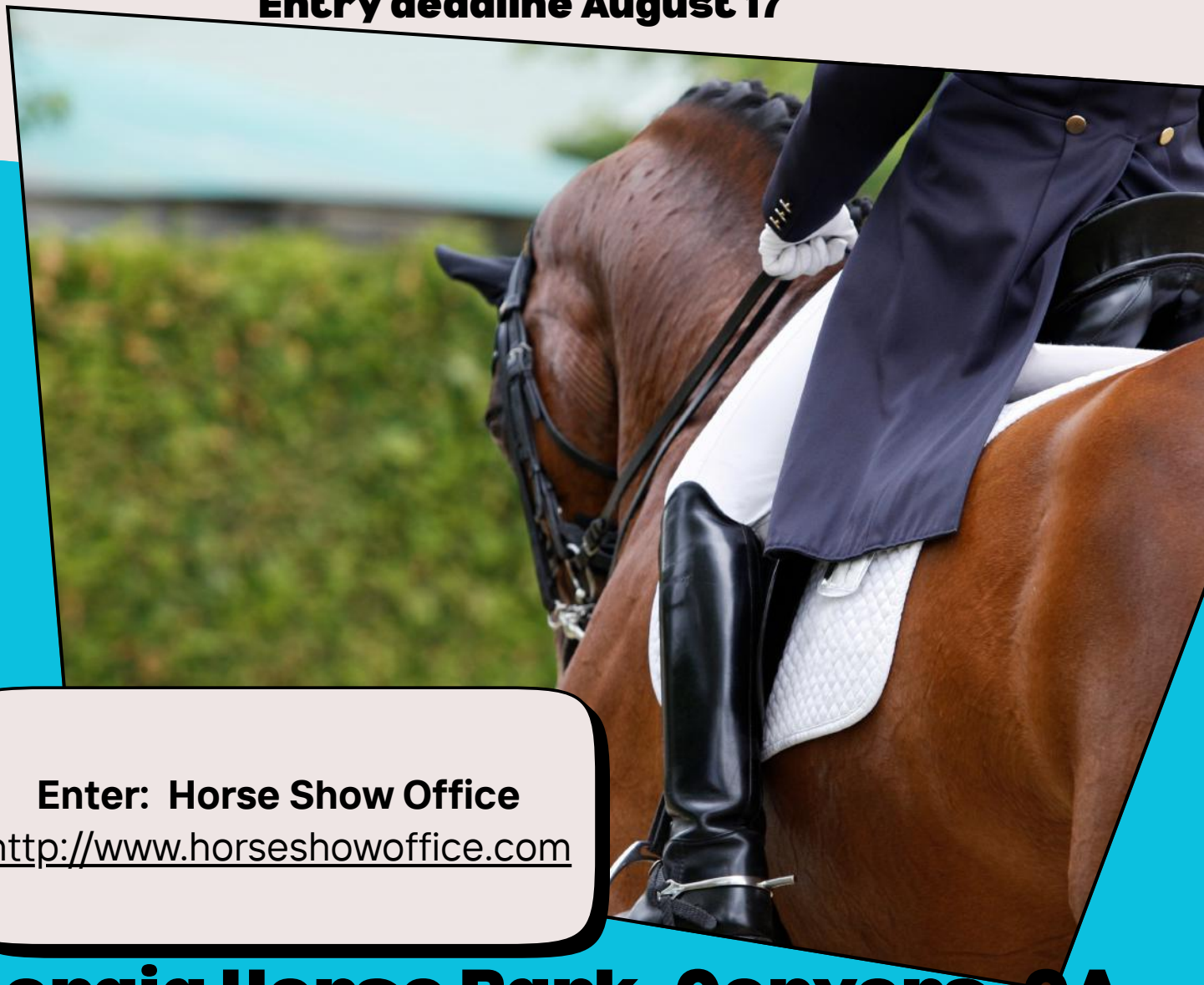
GDCTA presents

LABOR DAY DRESSAGE CLASSIC I & II

Official Qualifying Competition for
GAIG/USDF Regional Championships

August 29-30

Entry deadline August 17



Enter: Horse Show Office
<http://www.horseshowoffice.com>

Georgia Horse Park, Conyers, GA

The Dressage Foundation Announces Riding School Fund and Fundraiser to Honor “Treasured Horses”

The Dressage Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of a new initiative designed to strengthen the future of dressage in the United States: TDF’s Riding School Fund, established to support current dressage lesson programs and riding schools that are facing increasing financial pressures.

Based on feedback from the dressage community in a 2025 survey conducted by The Dressage Foundation, the need to support riding schools and lesson programs has become critical in recent years. Due to rising costs, many riding schools across the country are closing their doors, leading to a loss of access to the sport.

To help address this challenge, and thanks to seed funding from TDF Director Emeritus Ralph Dreitzler, the new Riding School Fund will initially provide \$3,000 grants to help lesson programs continue operating, care for their school horses, and introduce new riders to dressage. Applications for the inaugural grants will be accepted in Fall 2026.

“Riding schools and lesson programs are the gateway to our sport,” said Lendon Gray, Board Chair of The Dressage Foundation. “If we want dressage to thrive, we must ensure that riders have a place to begin. With backing from the dressage community, TDF hopes its Riding School Fund can grow and do more to support these important programs.”

In conjunction with the launch of the Fund and to raise money for additional grants, TDF has also introduced “Treasured Horses, Treasured Teachers,” a special fundraiser that celebrates the horses who carried dressage riders throughout their journeys.

With a gift to TDF’s “Treasured Horses, Treasured Teachers” fundraiser, donors can honor a favorite horse and have it featured on TDF’s website and/or social media. All proceeds directly benefit the Riding School Fund. Options for named grants within the Fund are also available for larger gifts.

“Every dressage rider remembers the horse or horses that taught them,” said Jenny Johnson, TDF’s Executive Director. “TDF’s Treasured Horses, Treasured Teachers fundraiser allows our community to honor those remarkable horses while supporting future dressage riders.”

Learn more about TDF’s Treasured Horses, Treasured Teachers Fundraiser at <https://www.dressagefoundation.org/ridingschoolfundraiser.html>

To discuss major gift support for the Riding School Fund, please reach out to Jenny Johnson at 402-434-8585 or jenny@dressagefoundation.org. Support for this Fund is needed and greatly appreciated.

The Dressage Foundation

The Dressage Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, tax-exempt, donor-driven organization that is dedicated to educating, supporting, and advancing the sport of dressage. The organization solicits contributions, appropriately allocates the donations, and awards grants and scholarships to dressage riders, judges, instructors, breeders, high performance teams, nonprofit equestrian organizations, and more. For more information, please visit www.dressagefoundation.org.



BEHIND THE SCENES ACCESS

Volunteers See the Sport Up Close!

Get a behind-the-scenes look at thrilling dressage and combined training competitions. Witness incredible athleticism — horses and riders at their best.

[GDCTA.org](https://gdcta.org)

CONGRATULATIONS!

USDF Group Member Organizations Volunteer Incentive Program

The Group Member Organization (GMO) Volunteer Incentive Program is a way for current USDF Group Members (i.e., GDCTA members) to earn national recognition for their volunteer efforts with their GMO(s).

Participants track their hours using the GMO Volunteer Incentive Program Hour Log, which must be signed by a GMO, GMO chapter official, or board member to verify time volunteered. Officials may also earn credit, provided the hours are outside their official duties.

Volunteer hours can carry over from year to year but must be dated after May 28, 2021, the program's start date. Upon reaching milestones, members submit their forms to USDF (find the form on USDF.org).

Volunteers are awarded lapel pins at 50, 75, and 100 hours, potential features on YourDressage.org, and listing on the USDF website.

Recipients

Milestone 1 (25 Volunteer Hours)

Christine Lemoine, MA
Paul Cormier, MA
Pamela Wilhelm, CT
Anne McCann, MA
Shannon Ryan-Dinmore, NY
Kyriana Beard, OK
Christine Cashel, OK
Kathryn Patton, GA
Christina Harmon, OK
Lonni Bechen, FL
Anna Crothers, FL
Edith Finlayson, FL
Leslie Hagberg, FL
Carolyn Hall, FL
Carol Hibbard, FL
Loretta Lucas, FL
Charlotte Trentelman, FL
John Trentelman, FL
Noelle Vander Brink, FL
Susan Clarke, FL
Debra Wagner-Kane, FL
Martha Steward, FL
Lynn Zachary, FL
Nicole Miller, LA
Janie Pride, GA
Colleen Akin, TX
Jessica Robbins, NY

Milestone 2 (50 Volunteer Hours)

Christine Lemoine, MA
Paul Cormier, MA
Pamela Wilhelm, CT
Anne McCann, MA
Christine Cashel, OK
Kathryn Patton, GA
Shannon Ryan-Dinmore, NY
Susan Clarke, FL
Debra Wagner-Kane, FL
Martha Steward, FL
Lynn Zachary, FL
Nicole Miller, LA
Janie Pride, GA
Colleen Akin, TX
Loretta Lucas, FL
Jessica Robbins, NY

Milestone 3 (75 Volunteer Hours)

Christine Lemoine, MA
Christine Cashel, OK
Kathryn Patton, GA
Lynn Zachary, FL
Shannon Ryan-Dinmore, NY
Janie Pride, GA
Anne McCann, MA
Colleen Akin, TX

Loretta Lucas, FL

Milestone 4 (100 Volunteer Hours)

Christine Cashel, OK
Kathryn Patton, GA
Shannon Ryan-Dinmore, NY
Janie Pride, GA
Christine Lemoine, MA
Colleen Akin, TX
Loretta Lucas, FL
Anne McCann, MA

GDCTA Training Grants

The GDCTA Training Grants are available for active GDCTA members who have not won a grant within the last two years, are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, engaged in a consistent riding program with instruction, and demonstrate commitment to improving their riding skills through training with a qualified trainer.

Overview of the GDCTA Training Grants

- GDCTA awards **four grants annually**, each worth **\$800**, to help member-riders improve their riding through focused training with a trainer of their choice.
- These grants are designed to provide opportunities that may not be available in the recipient's daily routine and promote educational growth in dressage and combined training.

Eligibility Requirements

- **GDCTA Membership:** Must be a member in good standing of the Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association.
- **Citizenship:** Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents with a Green Card.
- **Active Riding Program:** The applicant should have been involved in a regular riding program with active instruction for at least the last three years.
- **Training Plan:** The grant is intended for concentrated work, so applicants must have a training plan and choose a recognized or certified trainer for their educational focus.

Grant Categories

There are four grant categories, with one grant awarded in each category:

- Adult Amateur – Dressage
- Professional

- Combined Training
- Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR)

Application Process

- **Intent to Apply:** Register online via the GDCTA event calendar by the stated deadline (usually early June).
- **Application Submission:** Complete the official application form, including a trainin plan, and submit it along with at least one reference letter and a letter from the train you plan to work with. Applications are emailed to Janie Pride (janiepride@yahoo.com).
- **Deadlines:** Check the GDCTA website for exact application deadlines each year.

Grant Use and Recipient Obligations

- The grant funds must be used within one year toward educational programs such as seminars, clinics, workshops, or training sessions with certified instructors.
- Upon award, recipients receive \$600 upfront after confirming training details, and the remaining \$200 is paid after submitting a written article about their training experience to the GDCTA newsletter, *Collected Remarks*.
- Recipients are required to:
 - Write an article describing their training experience for GDCTA publications.

- Give a verbal report at a GDCTA board meeting after completing the training.
- Volunteer at least 8 hours at a GDCTA event or function within one year of receiving the grant.

Additional Benefits

- Each recipient also receives a special journal donated by The Equestrian Journal, plus a coaching session on journaling to help maximize their training progress.



Summary

If you are an active GDCTA member committed to improving your riding skills and involved in ongoing instruction, and you're a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, you are likely eligible to apply for a GDCTA Training Grant. This grant supports concentrated, quality instruction with a trainer of your choice and encourages sharing your growth with the GDCTA community.

For more information, updates on deadlines, and specific application details, visit the official GDCTA website GDCTA.org or navigate directly to the Training Grants page on their calendar.

Applying for the GDCTA Training Grant is a great step to take your dressage or combined training to the next level while actively contributing to your local equestrian community.

GDCTA
*Summer Finals
 Schooling Show*

AUGUST 8-9

Open Show

Team Challenge

**Atlanta Saddlery
 Busiest Trainer Award**

Wills Park
 11915 Wills Rd
 Alpharetta, GA
GDCTA.org



GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships & AFND

October 2-4, 2026

Georgia International Horse Park, Conyers, GA

🌟 Sponsor Benefits Breakdown

Why Partner With the GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships & AFND

Sponsoring this event isn't just about visibility — it's about aligning your brand with excellence, athleticism, and a deeply loyal equestrian community. Here's what sponsors gain when they step into the arena with us.

🏆 1. Premium Brand Exposure

Your brand is showcased throughout a multi-day championship attended by riders, trainers, owners, families, and equestrian enthusiasts.

- Arena signage & announcements
- Logo placement in programs, schedules, and digital materials
- Recognition during award ceremonies
- Visibility in high-traffic areas including barns, vendor rows, and hospitality spaces

This is targeted exposure to consumers who value quality and invest heavily in their sport.

🎯 2. Direct Access to a High-Value Audience

Dressage competitors and supporters are discerning buyers who prioritize:

- Performance products
- Premium tack & equipment
- Wellness and veterinary services
- Apparel, accessories, and lifestyle brands
- Barn, farm, and equine-care solutions



Your sponsorship places you directly in front of decision-makers with strong purchasing power.

🎤 3. On-Site Engagement Opportunities

Sponsors enjoy meaningful, face-to-face interactions with attendees through:

- Vendor booths

- Product demos
- Sampling opportunities
- Branded experiences during social events

These touchpoints build trust, loyalty, and long-term customer relationships.

4. Class & Division Sponsorship Recognition

Put your name on the moments that matter most.

- Sponsor a class or division
- Be recognized during awards presentations
- Appear in official results and announcements
- Connect your brand with excellence and achievement

Riders remember — and appreciate — the sponsors who support their success.

5. Digital & Program Advertising

Extend your reach beyond the showgrounds.

- Ads in the official event program (PDF)
- Mentions on event pages and social media
- Inclusion in competitor and spectator communications

Your brand stays visible before, during, and after the event.

6. Strengthened Community Presence

Sponsorship signals your commitment to:

- Supporting equestrian sport

- Investing in regional talent
- Enriching the competitor and spectator experience

It's a powerful way to build goodwill and long-term brand affinity.

7. Built-In Traffic Drivers: Event Highlights

Our signature experiences keep crowds engaged — and moving through sponsor and vendor areas:

- **Thursday:** Wine & Cheese Social
- **Friday:** Twilight Vendor Walk
- **Saturday:** Dinner Buffet + Entertainment
- **Dance in the Ring:** DJ-hosted celebration after dinner


These events create natural opportunities for sponsor visibility and interaction.

Ready to Elevate Your Brand?

Contact:

Alexis Elliott

 ameforward@outlook.com

 305-748-0092

More information:

<https://gdcta.org/Championships>

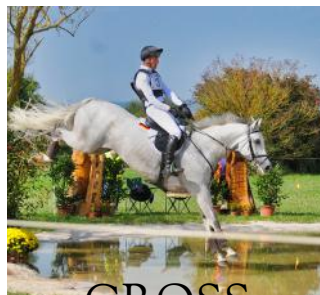
*Sponsorships and vendor applications accepted through **September 25**.*

GALLOP & GLORY AWARD

(EVENTING & CT)



DRESSAGE



CROSS
COUNTRY



STADIUM

A bold new GDCTA honor celebrating eventing excellence and the thrill of top performance.

This award recognizes riders who finish with scores in the 20s at USEA-recognized horse trials or GDCTA-recognized schooling shows — a true mark of mastery across all three phases.

Eventing is a test of courage, precision, and partnership, and the Gallop & Glory Award salutes those who tackle it all with grit, grace, and undeniable glory. ✨

RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY:

Riders must:

- Be a current GDCTA member in good standing
- Opt into the GDCTA Awards Program before earning scores (via membership form or email to Membership Chairperson)
- Complete a USEA-recognized horse trial or GDCTA-recognized schooling show
- Finish with a score in the 20s
- Events must occur between October 1 and September 30 of the awards year

INDUCTEES EACH RECEIVE:

- A custom certificate recognizing your achievement
- Recognition in the GDCTA newsletter "Collected Remarks"
- Acknowledgement at the Awards Gala

FULL DETAILS ON [GDCTA.ORG](https://www.gdcta.org)



Peaches & Perfect Circles Club

(Dressage)



🍑 A fresh new GDCTA honor celebrating the artistry and precision of dressage excellence.

Riders who score 70% or higher in any dressage test earn a coveted spot in this exclusive club—a true mark of mastery in the arena.

This recognition isn't just about ribbons; it's about celebrating the grace, grit, and dedication it takes to ride those sweet, round circles to perfection.

Join the ranks of Georgia's finest—because earning 70% or higher is no small feat, and we think that deserves a peach of a celebration!



Rules for Eligibility

- Be a current GDCTA member in good standing
- Opt into the GDCTA Awards Program before earning scores
- Earn a score of 70.000% or higher in any USEF/USDF-recognized dressage show or at any GDCTA-recognized schooling show
- Scores must be earned between October 1 and September 30 of the awards year

Each inductee receives:

- A custom certificate recognizing your achievement
- Recognition in the GDCTA newsletter
- Acknowledgement at Awards Gala



**Full details on
GDCTA.org**

The ***GDCTA Spring Fling Schooling Show***, held April 11–12 at Wills Park Equestrian Center in Alpharetta, Georgia, was filled with great rides, good sportsmanship, and a whole lot of community spirit. Congratulations to all of our competitors on their hard work and accomplishments throughout the weekend. We are deeply grateful to the dedicated staff, generous volunteers, and enthusiastic riders who made this event such a success. Your time, energy, and passion are what keep our shows thriving. Thank you for being part of the Spring Fling and for helping create a memorable weekend for everyone involved.



Beth Briner sent in by Beth Briner

2026 Atlanta Saddlery Best Score Winners

Saturday

CT Lindsey Fronzak
Dressage Aureauna Jones

Atlanta Saddlery Busiest Trainer Award

Allison Cochran / Kim Abernathy

Team Challenge Winner Team Geven

Sunday

CT Doreen Durr
Dressage Amber Lopresti

Team Challenge Winner Team ALE

A huge thank you to our incredible volunteers — your time, energy, and heart make these events possible. We're so grateful for everything you do to keep the show running smoothly and the spirit of the Spring Fling shining.

Lizzy Bohnsack
Lindsey Burns
Sally Cook
Austin Durr
Doreen Durr
Aly Elliott
Kim Faist

Sarah Fick
Mark Fornwalt
Lindsey Fronzak
Carol Green
Jessica Hughes
Laura King
Nate Melcher
Liz Molloy

Noel Muehlbauer
Dee Rawlston
Emily Rawlston
Lynda Sanford
Chloe Schwerzmann
Helena Stokes
Anne Zaharias



Amber Lopresti



Spring Fling 2026



Aureauna Jones



Team ALE



Doreen Durr



Kim Abernathy &
Alison Cochran



Premium Image
Photography



Premium Image
Photography



Premium Image
Photography



Premium Image
Photography



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Photography



Premium Image
Photography



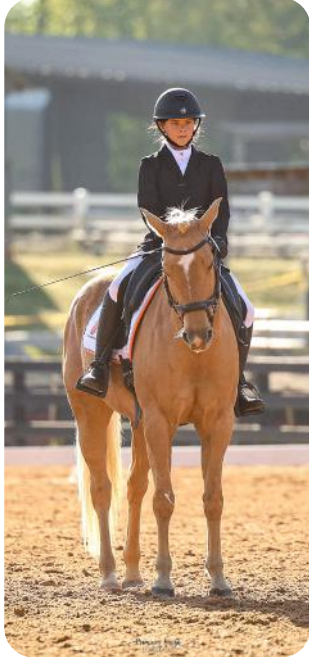
Spring Fling

Schooling Show 2026
at
Wills Park, Alpharetta, Georgia

Photos from
Premium Image Photography
<https://bit.ly/4vxgeUj>



Premium Image Photography



Premium Image Photography



Congratulations to Our New GDCTA Award Honorees

A huge **congratulations** to all the GDCTA members who earned their place in our newest awards programs at the Spring Fling Schooling Show on April 11–12. Your scores, your partnership with your horses, and your commitment to excellence made this weekend shine.

Here's to every sweet 70%+ circle and every powerful finish in the 20s — you earned these honors, and we're proud to celebrate you.

Peaches & Perfect Circles Club Inductees

(70%+ in any dressage test)

- Aureauna Jones & Jack in Black — 73.269% in Training 1 and 71.200% in Training 3
- Amber Lopresti & AM Silver King — 82.187% in Intro A, 77.813% in Intro B, 73.438% in Intro B, 70.625% in Intro B, and 70.000% in Intro A & C
- Lauren Eckardt & Fast Fashion — 70.962% in Training 1
- Jillian Bronner & Bon Voyage — 73.438% in Intro B

These riders brought forward beautiful, balanced, peach-worthy tests that showcased true dressage artistry.

Gallop & Glory Award Inductees

(Finishing in the 20s at a recognized horse trial or schooling show)

- Lindsey Fronzak & I'm Makin' Waffles — 28.44% in Amoeba
- Anora Jucknies & Ringwood Ticket — 29.25% in Training
- Doreen Durr & Victoria — 29.38% in Beginner Novice

These eventers delivered grit, bravery, and bold riding across all three phases — a true testament to eventing excellence.

You brought forward the very best of our community—precision in the dressage court, boldness in stadium jumping, and the kind of partnership with your horses that makes equestrian sport unforgettable.

GDCTA Board 2026

OFFICERS

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

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Lindsey Burns
 Doreen Durr
 Noel Muehlbauer
 Danielle Perry
 Janie Pride
 Dianne Rawlston

YOUTH MEMBERS

TBA

*The 2026 Board was seated at the
January meeting*



Committees 2026

- 1) **Nominating** – 2 Non-outgoing board members
- 2) **Grievance** – 2 VPs, only if there's a complaint
- 3) **Finance** –
 - a. Chair – Peter West
 - b. Sponsorship - Caren Caverly, Aly Elliott
- 4) **Awards** –
 - a. Grants – Janie Pride
- 5) **Award Gala** –
 - a. Chair – Caren Caverly
 - b. Silent Auction – Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
 - c. Barn Raffle – Danielle Perry
- 6) **Education** –
 - a. Chair – Caren Caverly
 - b. Clinics – Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
 - c. Kudzu – Danielle Perry
 - d. L Program – Marian Bickers
- 7) **Youth** –
 - a. Chair – Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
 - b. Schooling or Grassroots – Open
 - c. Recognized – Lindsey Burns, Janie Pride
 - d. Collegiate – Amanda Garner
- 8) **Communication** –
 - a. Chair – Joanne Morse
 - b. Newsletter – Penny Morse, June Brewer
 - c. Website – June Brewer
 - d. Social Media – June Brewer
- 9) **Show** –
 - a. Chair – Julie Shannon
 - b. Recognized – Caren Caverly
 - c. Schooling – Caren Caverly
 1. Horse Show Recognition –
 - d. Regionals 2026
 1. Chair – Caren Caverly
 - e. Volunteer Coordinator – Aly Elliott

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.

Only high resolution (300dpi) Jpeg, PNG, or PDF files will be accepted.

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

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

For information, 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>

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 Website, contact the appropriatechariperson on the website Contact Us page.

<https://gdcta.org/Contact>

Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association

Regular Meeting
February 16, 2026

President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on February 16, 2026, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Ashley Boyd performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Abigail Kroupa, Joanne Morse, Ashley Boyd, Carol Tresan, Peter West, Lindsey Burns, Danielle Perry, Noel Muehlbauer, and Dee Rawlston were present. Liz Molloy was on as a guest. The minutes from January 19, 2026, Board Meeting were emailed to the board. Danielle motioned to accept minutes; Dee seconded. The board voted to accept the minutes.

Treasurer's Report – (Peter): January was mostly a flat month. Slight loss but because we were paying membership dues to USDF.

VP Dressage Report – (Abi): Endel Ots clinic is full. JJ Tate and Alexander Dunken are on the roster to hopefully do clinics - working on getting dates. Discussion about who will organize the clinics. Noel and Dee volunteered to help.

VP Combined Training – (Joanne): Quietly opened camp Sunday to last-year's riders for pre-registration period. Already 30 people have signed up. It is open tomorrow to the public. Trainers are locked in for the event.

Membership Report – (Mary Lou): Report is up from last month but down from last year. Noel mentioned looking at adding horse membership to add to our options. Other GMOs do this. Noel proposed to investigate it more, put together proposal, and discuss it more at the next meeting.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communication** (Joanne): June sent a letter regarding Kendra Scott wanting to do a GDCTA Day at their store. No date has been set yet. Somebody from GDCTA would need to be at the store.
- **Show Committee** (Caren): First show is April Spring Fling. Caren will not be there; Lindsey can help set arena and Ashley is jumping judge and will help set up jump arena. Mary Lou needs help on Friday morning. Carol said she can help some too. Wills Park has taken down the building and office will now be in a trailer. The pony arena is gone. New footing is in the covered arena.
- **Finance** (Peter): Nothing new to report
- **Youth Program** (Joanne): Caren brought up having co-chairs for D4K so that Liz Molloy has some help organizing and running it. Abi is on board helping with vendors and sponsors for shows. Discussion about getting it on Horse Show Office but there are conflicts with that. Abi proposed getting it by June and getting it done on Wild Apricot.
- **Awards** (Janie): Grants opened February 1st
- **Education** (Joanne & Abi): Nothing additional to report
- **Gala** (Caren): Caren thanked everybody for all their hard work on Gala night. We just barely made a small profit. Ticket sales were a little less this year, but they were okay because it was not as crowded. Auction did better than budgeted, but raffle baskets did not do as well as budgeted. We were down on budgeted revenue. Caren gave a breakdown on additional budget items. Discussion about the 12 and Under Excellence Awards and who received it. There needs to be clarification of the criteria for the award. There was discrepancy in which person got the award based on who was presented it in person and what was initially put

online. Proposal to get the child who missed out a plate. Caren motioned for next year's 12 and Under Excellence Award that it be added into the qualifications that it will be for Training through Grand Prix and Abi seconded and the board voted to change the wording on the award.

- **Regionals** (Caren): At the executive board meeting, a member is requiring we have a co-manager and co-secretary to have regionals this year. There were additional concerns based on surveys we got; however, we got a very small number of surveys compared to entries. There were a few that discussed the footing. It has been proposed that the park needs to level all the arenas before regionals. Joe has said he does not want a co-manager, and they are going back to see what job description for co-manager is. Adding a co-Manager would be an additional \$15,000. If we do not agree, they will put it out for a rebid and let somebody else have regionals this year. We also got dinged because we did not have an Awards Chair at the 2025 event. However, the person had an emergency and couldn't be there on Friday but was there on Saturday and Sunday. If we get it, we will need all hands-on deck and make changes and make sure it is perfect. Discussion about how we can get more volunteers.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Email Blasts** – (Caren): Clinic, Spring Fling, and Camp

NEW BUSINESS

- New members for March – (Abi)

Joanne motioned to adjourn, Danielle seconded and board voted to adjourn.

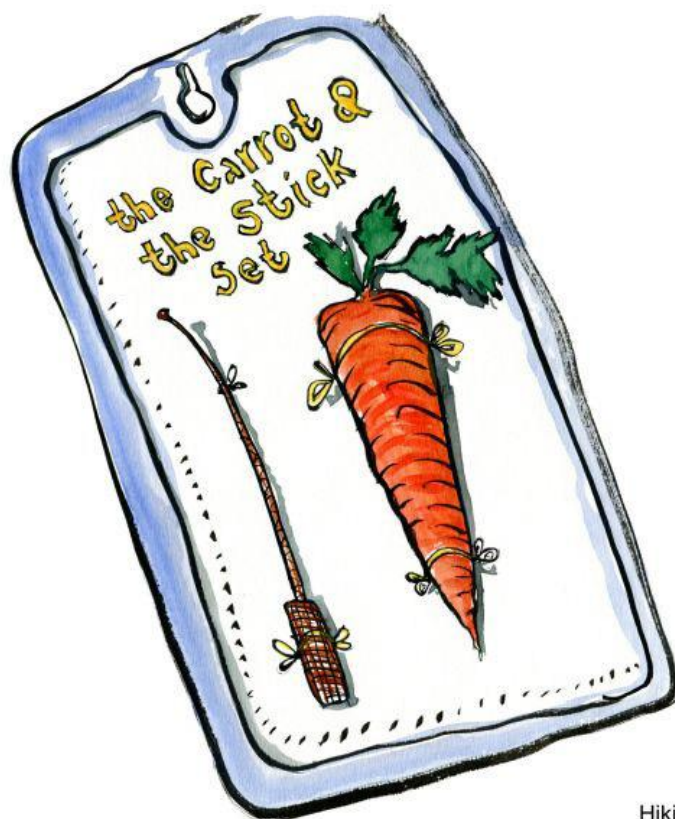
Meeting Adjourned.

Board Meeting Highlights

Each month, the GDCTA board comes together to review our financial health, plan upcoming events, and address any challenges on the horizon. Committees share updates on their ongoing projects, and the board actively explores fresh ideas and new opportunities to keep our club vibrant and engaging.

These meetings are where strategy, creativity, and community intersect — and they offer a great window into the direction and growth of GDCTA. If you're curious about how the organization moves forward, this is where the energy starts.

Meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM via Zoom. If you would like to join a meeting, email Caren at ccaverly@comcast.net



Hiking Artist

Thank you for your generous gifts!

*Before we list the GDCTA GOATs, we must clarify who those GOATs are.
The GOATS are the benefactors, donors, and sponsors of this organization.*

Sponsors

Atlanta Saddlery
Bouckaert Farm
The Harbin Agency
Lisa Seger Insurance
Noble Steeds LLC
Riding Warehouse

Donors

Leslie Allen
Sandra Almond
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Caryl Berzack *
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Evelyn Dampier
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Susan Day *
Abbey Dondanville
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Rhonda Hamel
Amy Hoffield
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Holly Kohaut
Lois Lassiter
Sydney Lee *
Linda Light
Sara Lowrey
Ashley Marascalco
Katie Mattick

Jennifer Melcher
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Brie Murray
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Robin Puryear
Lou Roth
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Dorothy Whelchel
Sandra Wight
Monica Williamson
Virginia Woodcock
Mary Youngblood *

Championship & AFND Sponsors

Silver Sponsor: Noble Steeds

Bronze Sponsor: Kroupa Team Real Estate

Hospitality Sponsor:

Triple Crown Feed - Thursday Welcome Party

Arena Sponsors:

The Kroupa Team Real Estate
CU @ X
Triple Crown Feed
Dressage TestPro
Noble Steed
Riding Warehouse
Wilson Custom Blanket

Class Sponsors:

In Loving Memory of T'Challa owned by Jennifer Macklin
Kroupa Team Real Estate
MangoBay Design
Mirrors for Training USA
Richard's Equine Video
Simply Dressage
White Pines Farm



GOAT—Greatest Of All Time

2026

January							February							March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				

April							May							June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

July							August							September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4							1			1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												

October							November							December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

Jan 1	New Year's Day	May 10	Mother's Day	Oct 31	Halloween
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	May 25	Memorial Day	Nov 3	Election Day
Feb 14	Valentine's Day	Jun 14	Flag Day	Nov 11	Veterans Day
Feb 16	Presidents' Day	Jun 19	Juneteenth	Nov 26	Thanksgiving Day
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day	Jun 21	Father's Day	Nov 27	Black Friday
Apr 5	Easter Sunday	Jul 3	'Independence Day' day off	Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Apr 6	Easter Monday	Jul 4	Independence Day	Dec 25	Christmas Day
Apr 15	Tax Day	Sep 7	Labor Day	Dec 31	New Year's Eve
May 5	Cinco de Mayo	Oct 12	Columbus Day		

GDCTA Calendar: <https://www.gdcta.org/events>

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.wildapricot.org/schooling-shows>



Saddle Up for More Than Just Ribbons 🐾

What if your next big win wasn't just in the ring, but also in the friendships and connections you made along the way? 🏆 ✨

At GDCTA, we're more than an organization—we're a community. From schooling shows to year-end awards and clinics, we offer endless opportunities to elevate your equestrian journey. And the best part? You'll be surrounded by people who share your love for horses and the lifestyle that comes with it. 🐾 ❤️

Whether you're here for the ribbons or the ride, we'd love to welcome you into the GDCTA family.

Join today!

<https://gdcta.org/join-us>



Scan me!