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COVER

Bryanna Cohen & Astro

Photo: Debra Cohen



*Georgia Dressage &
Combined Training Association*

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Dear Members:

If November were a person, she'd be the dramatic friend who sweeps in wearing a swirling scarf and demands everyone admire her colors. As we wrap up 2025 and prepare for the 2026 membership year beginning December 1, I hope this season finds you well. November can feel overwhelming, so consider this a little equestrian love in your inbox. The next several weeks will be busy for all of us—so take a moment for *you*. Read. Breathe. Hydrate. Give yourself the gift of rest and appreciation as we close out the year. And if anyone questions your quiet time, tell them I said it was allowed. If they persist, assign them hay duty while they're wearing fleece.

This issue is packed with news, and we're rolling into yet another action-filled season.

We're already gearing up for a fantastic 2026 show season. The full calendar is now live at [GDCTA.org/events](https://gdcta.org/events), filled with opportunities to ride, volunteer, spectate, and connect with fellow members.

Revised rider standings are posted at [GDCTA.org/Awards](https://gdcta.org/Awards) for member review through November 19. All scores are in and tabulated, which means Gala season is just around the corner! We're currently collecting silent auction items and Barn Baskets for the raffle, and we'd love your help. If you'd like to contribute, reach out to the committee—your support makes all the difference.

"And the winner is..." emails will be sent in mid-December. Save the date for the Awards Gala on February 7, 2026, at the Marriott in Alpharetta. Details are available on the event page.

Our community has been active beyond the show ring as well. Foxberry Farm in Dallas recently hosted a Kudzu Clinic with Danielle Perry—hail and all—and it was a great success. These clinics continue to be a fun, accessible way to learn, grow, and meet fellow riders.

We also launched a meaningful conversation on Facebook:

"What would you like to see GDCTA do over the next two years—and how will you help make it happen?"

Your responses were thoughtful, candid, and full of energy. Members from across the state suggested everything from hosting events in South Georgia to exploring new venues and offering more educational opportunities. That's how GDCTA grows—through your ideas and your willingness to participate.

If you've ever said, "I wish GDCTA would..." this is your moment. Reach out to the board at admin@gdcta.org if you're interested in hosting a Kudzu Clinic or another activity. It's easier than you might think and incredibly rewarding.

As the year winds down, I'm proud of everything our members, volunteers, and partners have accomplished. Together, we continue to build a vibrant and welcoming dressage and eventing community across Georgia.

Please note: new rules take effect December 1. You'll find updates in this edition, and you should also check USEF, USDF, and USEA for the latest details.

And don't forget—it's time to renew your membership.

In this month of gratitude, I'm especially thankful for you. Your light, your enthusiasm, and your presence enrich this community and my life.

Caren

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



LIZ FASO MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

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GDCTA.org/Volunteer

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GDCTA



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ELECTION RESULTS

The 2026 Georgia Dressage and Combined Training
Board of Directors Election has been finalized.

We are pleased to announce your 2026 Board of Directors.

Officers (1-year term)

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

At Large (2-year term)

Noel Muehlbauer (2025/2026)
Danielle Perry (2025/2026)
Lindsey Burns (2026/2027)
Doreen Sullivan-Durr (2026/2027)
Janie Pride (2026/2027)
Dee Rawlston (2026)

(replacing Annmarie who is stepping down halfway through her term)

We want to thank our outgoing board members for their valuable participation. We look forward to your continued involvement.

We're looking for passionate, committed individuals to join our Board of Directors and help guide GDCTA into its next chapter of impact.

The annual election occurs in November but you can join a committee and attend meetings (via Zoom) on the third Monday of every month at any time. Email Caren ccaverly@comcast.net to receive the Zoom link and the agenda.

GDCTA.ORG

FEBURARY 7, 2026



SAVE THE

date

GDCTA AWARDS GALA

The Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association hopes that you will take a few moments to read about our upcoming event and decide to participate by donating to our silent auction.

On February 7, 2026, we will be hosting our Annual Awards Gala at the Atlanta Marriott Alpharetta. We anticipate approximately 550 guests at this function and the funds raised will go toward the UGA Veterinary School as well as other GDCTA functions and community events to benefit our members. To make this event as exciting and extravagant as we would like, we will need your help!

Please consider supporting our event by sponsoring ribbons for a division (\$350), donating gift certificates, merchandise or services. Member farms are encouraged to donate a Barn Basket to show off their Equestrian Spirit for the Raffle! In exchange, you will receive some excellent community exposure and advertising. Your company name, address, phone number and donation will be listed in the Collected Remarks newsletter that we will send to our ~800 members with event photos after the event and you will be listed on the website and on Facebook prior to the event.

If you are interested, please contact a committee member (listed below) or visit our webpage: gdcta.org/event-6008334

NAME	JOB	CELL	EMAIL
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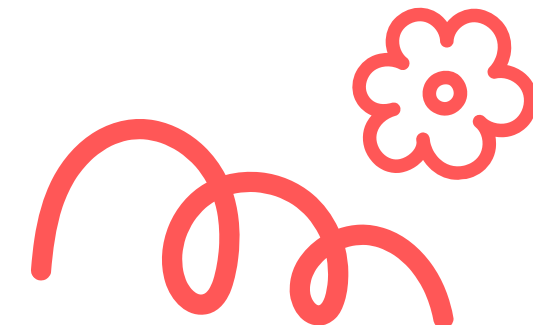
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FUNNY FACES WITH FURY H



These are pictures
of *me* smiling big!



sent in by Michelle Fountain

Thank You & Clinic Overview

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the Ed Dabney De-Spooking Clinic, hosted by GDCTA on November 15–16, 2025 at Noble Steeds in Canton, GA. Your enthusiasm and dedication made this clinic a truly rewarding experience.

Special appreciation goes to Chantelle Noble for graciously hosting us at her beautiful facility, to Alexis Troutman for her organizational support, and to Nate and Jennifer Melcher for volunteering their time throughout the day.

Under the guidance of internationally respected horseman Ed Dabney, riders explored practical techniques to build confidence and trust with their horses. Through in-hand and mounted sessions, participants learned how to calmly introduce horses to potentially startling situations, reinforcing Ed's Six Keys to Harmony principles of respect, communication, and partnership.

We are grateful to Ed for sharing his expertise, to Noble Steeds for providing such a welcoming venue, and to all riders and auditors for your commitment to horsemanship. Together, we created a supportive environment that strengthens both horses and riders.



GDCTA Horse Shows

- **April 11–12:** Spring Fling Schooling Show
- **May 9–10:** Greater Atlanta Dressage Southern I & II
- **August 15–16:** Summer Finals Schooling Show
- **August 29–30:** Labor Day Classic I & II
- **October 2–4:** Region 3 Championships & Atlanta Fall National Dressage

[GDCTA.ORG/EVENTS](https://gdcta.org/events)



Dressage Terms

M M H P U S L E G Y I E L D Z D Q T J L
 U D I A B G T W K A M P L I T U D E N E
 T V R M R P P R E D T R H Y T H M M W N
 P H L T P M I A A R S R S T B F C P B G
 N D R A R U O R S I T I S E S D O O C A
 X X G O I A L N O S G X P J J C N S J G
 M O Q U U H N S Y U A H B J I Y T L C E
 C C K P L G S S I C E G T A P I A R A M
 A D A H A T H E I O Y T E N K V C T C E
 D U Z I T M X N L T N D T G E T T O U N
 E R S L E E O C E F I N O E C S F B G T
 N E N L R Q S M D S C O L I B Y S E F F
 C L N O A N Z U M P S A N E E T W D G R
 E A C O L L E C T I O N R S N B V I F A
 G X S U P P L E N E S S L R D A R E O M
 A A W C N T H W F W X W K U I L Q N R E
 I T S U B M I S S I O N T B G A E C W A
 T I E P K F U G V P I A F F E N G E A E
 S O H C A U J D Q D L P U D Q C T E R R
 O N S E M T W H A L F H A L T E Y C D D

Straightness

SelfCarriage

Throughness

Transitions

Collection

Suppleness

Engagement

Relaxation

Impulsion

Amplitude

Obedience

Pirouette

Harmony

Contact

Cadence

HalfHalt

Legyield

Submission

Passage

Lateral

Rhythm

Frame

Piaffe

Balance

Forward

Uphill

Gaits

Tempo

Bend

Answer key on page 27

Ride and Audit with Endel Ots – A Unique Dressage Opportunity Brought to You by GDCTA

Mark your calendars for **March 14–15, 2026**, when internationally acclaimed dressage trainer and competitor **Endel Ots** brings his expertise to **Noble Steeds in Canton, GA** for a GDCTA Kudzu Clinic.

Endel Ots is known for developing horses and riders to the highest levels of dressage, with a proven record of success on the international stage. His clinics are celebrated for blending technical precision with accessible, rider-focused coaching. Whether you're in the saddle or observing from the sidelines, you'll gain invaluable insights into the art and science of dressage.



Why Ride

- Personalized instruction from a trainer with international competition experience
- Exercises designed to help riders transition confidently through the levels
- A chance to refine communication, balance, and harmony with your horse

Why Audit

- Learn by watching a variety of horses and riders work through challenges
- Hear Endel's explanations and corrections in real time
- Take home practical strategies to apply in your own training

Registration Details

- **Opens January 1, 2026**
- **Riders must be GDCTA members** at the date of the clinic
- **Rider will be selected by lottery** to ensure fairness and opportunity

Don't miss this chance to learn from one of America's leading dressage professionals in a supportive, educational environment.

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

The Development of Impulsion: Creating Energy and Forwardness

By GDCTA Contributor

Once rhythm, relaxation, and contact are established, the next step in the dressage training journey is developing **impulsion**. This concept is often misunderstood as simply making the horse go faster. In reality, impulsion is about creating controlled, elastic energy—energy that comes from the horse’s hindquarters and flows forward through a supple back into a steady, seeking contact. Without impulsion, even a well-mannered horse will feel flat and disengaged.

What Is Impulsion?

Impulsion is the controlled power generated from the horse’s hind legs, creating active, rhythmic, and expressive movement. It gives the horse lift in the steps without rushing. When a horse moves with impulsion, you feel energy contained and channeled forward—not running away, but carrying you forward with purpose.

A common mistake is confusing speed with impulsion. Speed is simply covering ground more quickly. Impulsion is about the quality of movement—energy that springs from behind, engages the core muscles, and reaches forward into the rider’s hand.

Signs of impulsion include:

- Active, engaged hindquarters.
- Elastic, expressive strides.
- A back that swings and a horse that feels “in front of the leg.”
- Lightness in the forehand as the horse carries more weight behind.

Developing Impulsion

Creating impulsion requires effective use of your aids—not just adding more leg.

- **Leg Aids:**
Your legs ask the horse to step actively forward. The goal is responsiveness: when you lightly apply your leg, your horse should immediately move forward with energy. If not, correct gently but firmly to remind your horse that forward is the expected answer.
- **Seat and Core:**
Your seat allows the horse to move forward by following the motion—not blocking it. A tight seat or heavy hands will suppress impulsion. Ride with a supple, engaged core that supports your horse’s movement.
- **Half-Halts:**
Once you have created forward energy, you need to channel it. This is where the half-halt becomes essential. A half-halt momentarily balances and collects the horse without killing the forward momentum. Think of it as recycling the energy from the hind legs into a more controlled, engaged movement.
- **Contact:**
Your hands should offer a soft, consistent contact that receives and shapes the forward energy, not blocks it. Your horse should seek the contact and step “into the bridle,” not avoid it.

Exercises to Encourage Impulsion

Practicing exercises that promote active engagement will help your horse develop strength and understanding.

1. Transitions Within the Gait:

Ride from working trot to a more forward, medium trot for a few strides, then return to working trot. Repeat this pattern in the canter as well. This encourages your horse to push from behind and lift through the back. Avoid letting the horse rush—focus on longer, more elastic steps rather than faster ones.

2. Frequent Up and Down Transitions:

Riding multiple transitions between walk, trot, and canter sharpens your horse's response to your aids and helps activate the hindquarters. Be clear and prompt with your aids, and avoid nagging.

3. Ride Forward Out of Corners:

Corners offer a natural opportunity to rebalance. Use them to prepare, then ask for more forward energy as you exit. This encourages your horse to push forward with engagement.

4. Serpentine and Circles:

Riding smooth curves requires your horse to stay balanced and stepping under. Use circles and serpentine to keep the inside hind leg active while maintaining rhythm and relaxation.

Maintaining Impulsion

Once impulsion is created, the challenge is to maintain it without constant pushing. Your goal should be a horse that stays “in front of the leg”—responding eagerly without needing repeated cues.

- Avoid overusing your legs. Instead, reward your horse when they respond promptly, and correct them if they ignore your aids.
- Keep your own body soft and engaged, avoiding stiffness that could block the forward flow.
- Use half-halts as necessary to contain the energy without shutting it down.

Why Impulsion Matters

Impulsion transforms your horse's movement from passive to powerful. It allows for greater expression, balance, and lightness, and it sets the stage for future work in connection and collection. Whether you're preparing for a dressage test or simply looking for a more responsive ride, impulsion is key.

In dressage, energy is not about speed—it's about quality. By developing and maintaining impulsion, you build both your horse's physical strength and their willingness to work forward into your aids. And that, after all, is the heart of good riding.

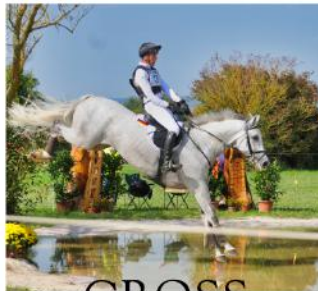


GALLOP & GLORY AWARD

(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://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**



Rule Changes for November - December 2025

Eventing:

Rider and Horse Qualifications

- **New minimum eligibility requirements (MERs):** Horses and riders must have more experience at lower levels before moving up. For example, a horse needs 3 qualifying rounds at Novice or higher to compete at the Modified level.
- **Back-to-back competition limits:** Horses are limited to competing for three consecutive weekends at recognized events to prevent overexertion.

Tack and Equipment

- **Biometric sensors:** Riders can now use biometric sensors (for themselves and their horses) as long as they meet safety guidelines.
- **Noseband restrictions:** Nosebands with abrasive interiors are banned, with exceptions for rope and rawhide.
- **Saddle attachments:** Starting December 1, 2025, saddle attachments with rigid upward projections that may catch a rider's clothing are prohibited (e.g., peacock stirrups).
- **Whip use:** Whips are only permitted to encourage forward motion, not as a form of punishment.

Warm-up areas

-

- **Show Jumping:** Warm-up areas must include at least two adjustable oxers and two adjustable vertical practice fences for Training level and below.
- **Cross-Country:** Warm-up areas must include at least two adjustable obstacles capable of being set as spreads and one solid obstacle.

Horse and rider safety

- **Technical Eliminations:** A new rule (EV104.8) provides a comprehensive definition of "Technical Elimination" to distinguish it from eliminations due to performance issues.
- **Helmet and safety equipment:** General rules regarding helmet and other safety equipment have been streamlined.

Dressage:

Mandatory microchipping

- **Requirement:** All horses competing in USEF-licensed or endorsed competitions must be microchipped with an ISO 11784/11785 compliant chip.
- **Action:** Riders should ensure their horse's microchip information is recorded in their USEF Member Dashboard before the 2025-2026 competition season begins.

Blood rule

- **Stricter enforcement:** A judge can stop a horse upon entry into the arena if they suspect blood. If blood is confirmed, the pair is eliminated; if none is found, the horse can continue.
- **Post-test:** Stewards will eliminate a horse if they find fresh blood in or around the horse's mouth or spur area after the test.

Horse Tack and Welfare

- **Nosebands:** A new FEI-approved device will be used to measure noseband tightness, which must be loose enough to allow for "sufficient laxity".
- **Spurs:** In Children and Pony competitions, spurs are optional. If worn, they must be blunt metal with a maximum shank length of 3.5 cm.
- **Bridles:** Riders may now compete up to CDI3*/CDIO3* Big Tour levels using a snaffle bridle, effective *January 1, 2026*

Equipment and Tack changes

- **Saddle attachments:** Saddle attachments with rigid upward projections that could catch a rider's clothing (e.g., peacock stirrups) are prohibited.
- **Enforcement:** There will be a grace period from December 1, 2025, to November 30, 2026, where verbal or recorded warnings will be issued. Full enforcement will begin on December 1, 2026
- **Helmets and safety equipment:** Rule GR 801.1 has been updated to streamline language related to helmets and other safety equipment.

Judging

- **Collective mark:** The "General Impression" collective mark will now be called "Harmony and demonstration of the Training Scale" to reflect the importance of the training scale in the mark.

Other changes (Effective at various dates)

- **Earplugs:** Earplugs are now allowed in competition.
- **Anatomical crown pieces:** Previously restricted anatomical crown pieces are now legal again.
- **Schooling:** Trainers will be able to school horses at regional and national competitions.
- **Ground jury:** The ground jury for the FEI World Cup Dressage Final has been reduced from seven to five members.
- **Lameness protocol:** Marked lameness results in immediate elimination by the Judge at C, with no appeal.

Whip length Rules

- **Horses:** The maximum length is 120 cm (47.2 inches).
- **Ponies:** The maximum length is 100 cm (39.4 inches).
- **Total length:** This measurement includes the handle, shaft, and flexible tip/lash.

Veterinary and Competition Management Rules

- **Veterinarian registration:** Veterinarians treating horses on competition grounds must register with the Federation. This rule

- does not require them to become USEF members.
- **Purpose:** This allows organizers to efficiently communicate about biosecurity, disease outbreaks, and other critical concerns.
- **Warning Card system:** A new system will be implemented that includes the issuance of Recorded Warnings for minor offenses.

Don't forget to keep your Safe Sport up to date!!!

Music Licensing

USEF has contracts with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI) to license all USEF-recognized and endorsed competitions and events held in the United States effective 7/1/01.

These contracts grant non-exclusive licenses to USEF for its recognized and endorsed competitions and events to perform, present, or cause the live and recorded performance of all non-dramatic renditions of the separate musical compositions in the ASCAP and BMI repertories. These repertories include all copyrighted musical compositions written or published by ASCAP or BMI members or members of affiliated foreign performing rights societies. While some competitions feature music as part of the class, for example in dressage — freestyle to music, many use music for entertainment purposes. The licenses provide another valuable benefit to USEF-recognized and endorsed competitions.

Competition management may request additional information regarding the terms and limitations of both agreements by

Double bridles are permitted in national USEF (U.S. Equestrian Federation) eventing competitions during the dressage phase

For the 2025 season, double bridles are **permitted in national USEF (U.S. Equestrian Federation) eventing competitions** during the dressage phase, but with specific limitations on the bits and noseband. Rules for **FEI (International Federation for Equestrian Sports) events in 2025 remain the same**, requiring a double bridle for upper-level dressage tests. However, the FEI is considering a proposal that would permit a snaffle bridle as an option up to the CDI3* level, which could change in future years.

USEF Eventing (2025 Season)

- **Double bridle is permitted:** The double bridle is allowed in USEF competitions.
- **Specific bit rules:**
 - The bradoon and curb bits must be metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber/latex (flexible options are not allowed).
 - The curb bit's lever arm is limited to 10 cm (length below the mouthpiece).
 - The upper cheek of the curb bit must not be longer than the lower cheek.
 - Flexible snaffle bits are also permitted in all phases and can be covered with rubber/latex.
- **Noseband:** A cavesson noseband is required for the double bridle.

FEI Eventing (2025 Season)

- **Dressage tests:** Double bridles are currently mandatory for upper-level tests, such as those at Prix St. Georges, Intermediaries, and Grand Prix levels.
- **Proposed changes:** The FEI is considering a proposal to allow riders the choice between a snaffle or double bridle up to the CDI3*

level for 2026, but this has not yet been approved for the 2025 season.

Other important points

- **Safety:** The Ground Jury can forbid any noseband or bridle that may cause injury to the horse, regardless of the rules.
- **Dr. Bristol:** The Dr. Bristol bit is permitted for national USEF eventing competitions but is NOT allowed for FEI eventing dressage tests.
- **Rule updates:** [US Equestrian](#) is the official source for USEF rule changes and should be consulted for the most up-to-date information.



GDCTA Board 2025

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

AnnMarie Stockinger
 Lindsey Burns
 Liz Molloy
 Janie Pride
 Danielle Perry
 Noel Muehlbauer

YOUTH MEMBERS

TBA

*The 2025 Board was seated at the
January meeting*



Committees 2025

- 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 – Julie Shannon
 - 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 – Liz Molloy, 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 – Annmarie Stockinger
 - d. Regionals 2026
 1. Chair – Caren Caverly
 - e. Volunteer Coordinator – Aly Elliott

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 appropriate chairperson on the website Contact Us page.

<https://gdcta.org/Contact>

"All horses loosen up quickly if they are flexed. It is a fact that all horses by nature go more or less flexed to one side, either to the left or to the right but never perfectly straight."

- Musler, German School

24 Carrot Quote



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(c)(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.

Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association

Regular Meeting
September 15, 2025



President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on September 15, 2025, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Ashley Boyd performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Lindsey Burns, Peter West, Joanne Morse, Ashley Boyd, Liz Molloy, Abigail Kroupa, Janie Pride, Danielle Perry, Noel Muehlbauer, and Annemarie Stockinger were present. The minutes from August 18, 2025, were emailed to the board. Joanne motioned to accept minutes; Janie seconded. The board voted to accept the minutes.

Treasurer's Report – (Peter): August brought loss from operations which is normal. Part of it was the new radios. Summer Finals looks like a profit.

VP Dressage Report – (Lindsey): Nothing current report, discussion about Abigail taking Lindsey's position as VP Dressage and Lindsey will go back on the board. Everybody was on board with this decision.

VP Combined Training – (Joanne): Budget for a Fall show jumping clinic was submitted but it might change to a ride a test. Will submit new budget if it changes.

Membership Report – (Mary Lou): Membership numbers are down except for family memberships which are up. Annmarie volunteered to look at data from previous memberships and see if there are people we can bring back in by using her data analysis skills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communication** (Joanne): Discussion about how to get people to see information that is being missed in emails, social media, etc. Text messages service was recommended. Joanne asked for input

regarding the GDCTA Group where people can post stuff as well. The group currently has no guidelines and proposed adding group rules. Joanne shared proposed rules. And a discussion about what to add to the rules. Caren made a motion to follow through with creating guidelines for the Facebook group, Joanne seconded. Board voted to add the rules to the Facebook group.

- **Show Committee** (Julie): Last month we had the Labor Day classic which was a very big success. We had so many entries we had to add a 4th judge. It was 4 full days of horses and riders. Regionals entries increased by 180 entries after Labor Day. We are at 392 entries total. It will be 930 rides over 3 days. Working on organizing the freestyle rides so they do not interfere with the other rings.

- **Finance** (Peter): Nothing to report

- **Youth Program** (Joanne): Liz talked Dressage4Kids was a home run and had the largest group in the country. The event was extremely well received, and we had amazing volunteers and were profitable. Caren commented on next year all payments need to go through Wild Apricot. Liz is going to fix this next year by putting very clear instructions on how to pay. More discussion about organization for next year and a plan to get ahead of it with a meeting to iron out details.

- **Awards** (Janie): Nothing to report

- **Education** (Julie and Lindsey): Abby has two clinics set up.

- **Gala** (Caren): Nothing to report

- **Nominating** (Danielle & Noel): Everyone will return for their position except for two people. Three new candidates want to run.

OLD BUSINESS

Email Blasts – (Caren): Regionals and non-spook clinic. The L program has 10 participants and can add more.



NEW BUSINESS

- New members for October – Peter.

Caren received an email from USDF wanting to know policy with Safe Sport Sanctioned people. USEF contacted them to let them know that a sanctioned person had been spotted at a schooling show. While schooling shows do not fall under USEF standards, they say that we need to follow the policies. They encouraged us to put a protocol into place and stay on top of it. It was discussed with the show facility, and it would be best to ask him to leave in the future. It was proposed to put it in emails sent out to horse shows stating that *GDCTA follows the rules of USEF and USDF including all rules regarding Safe Sport suspended list*. It is also proposed to put it on the website. Proposal to put in something that says if they do not follow the rules that they can lose their GDCTA approval if they do not follow it. Caren will write it up and send in an email for board vote.

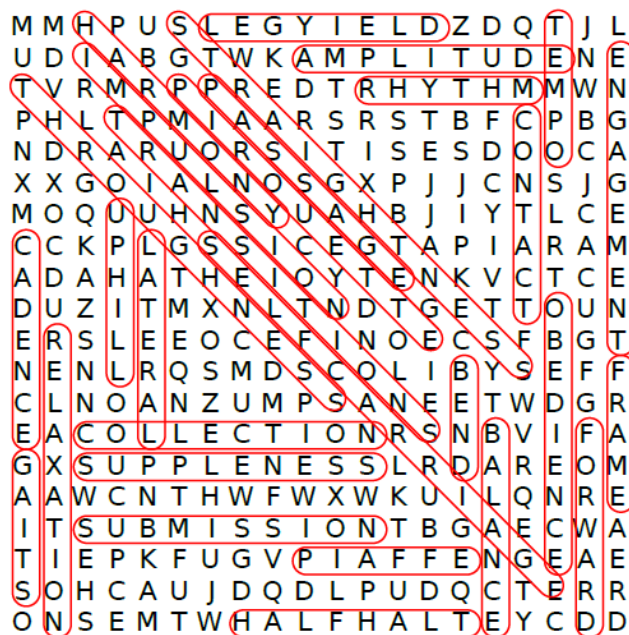
Joanne had a question about helmets regarding western dressage at one of our GDCTA-recognized shows. Western Dressage is not in our awards program or recognized groups. USDF does not recognize Western Dressage, but most classes must have a helmet with a handful of breed classes having a helmet or a cowboy hat. Concern was whether this opens us up for liability. Caren said according to USDF it must be a helmet or cowboy hat that a baseball cap does not count. Discussion about liability. Caren will call our insurance to find out about liability.

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

Meeting Adjourned.

Dressage Terms Answer key

Dressage Terms



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.*

Kelsey Abbott
Molly Adams
Leslie Allen
Sandra Almond
AMPOM
Becky Aukamp
Eliot Axt
Joel Baily
Julie Bakken
Celeste Barnes
Sarah Berhalter
Caryl Berzack
Kathryn Billinghamurst
Beth Bishop
Bits & Bytes Farm
Lindsey Burns
Meghan Cameron
Caren Caverly
Jamie Comstock
Sally Cook
D'Arcy Cowie
Ains Cushion
Terre Davies
Susan Day
Sadie Doiron
Abbey Dondanville
DressageTestPro.com
Debbie Eubanks
Robin Felton
Kaley Fuller
Georgia Legacy
Management
Kathy Gilker
Jessica Gilker Ho
Gillespie's Peanuts
Pagan Gilman
Carol Glover
Tamara Gomez
Stephanie E. Grisham
High Point Dressage

Amy Hoffield
Anna Howell
Jessica Hughes
JAG Arabian Sport Horses
Michele Jester
Dawn Johnson
Betsy Kaywood
Kim Keffer
Holly Kohaut
Andie Krakovsky
Kroupa Team Real Estate
Anabelle Kurtz
Lois Lassiter
Susanne Lauda
Mia Lecca
Sydney Lee
Linda Light
Betty Lynch
Katie Mattick
Jennifer Melcher
Christi Meyers
Crockett Miller
Irene Minney
The Moody Mare Bridle
& Boutique
Carol Morgan
Brie Murray
Chantelle Noble
Cara Oswalt
Katie Patton
Tammy Pearson
Danielle Perry
Kris Pinto
Patricia Powell
Janie Pride
Brittany Purcell & Associates
Robin Puryear
Carolyn Rice
Lydia Richardson
Lou Roth
Elin Sebert

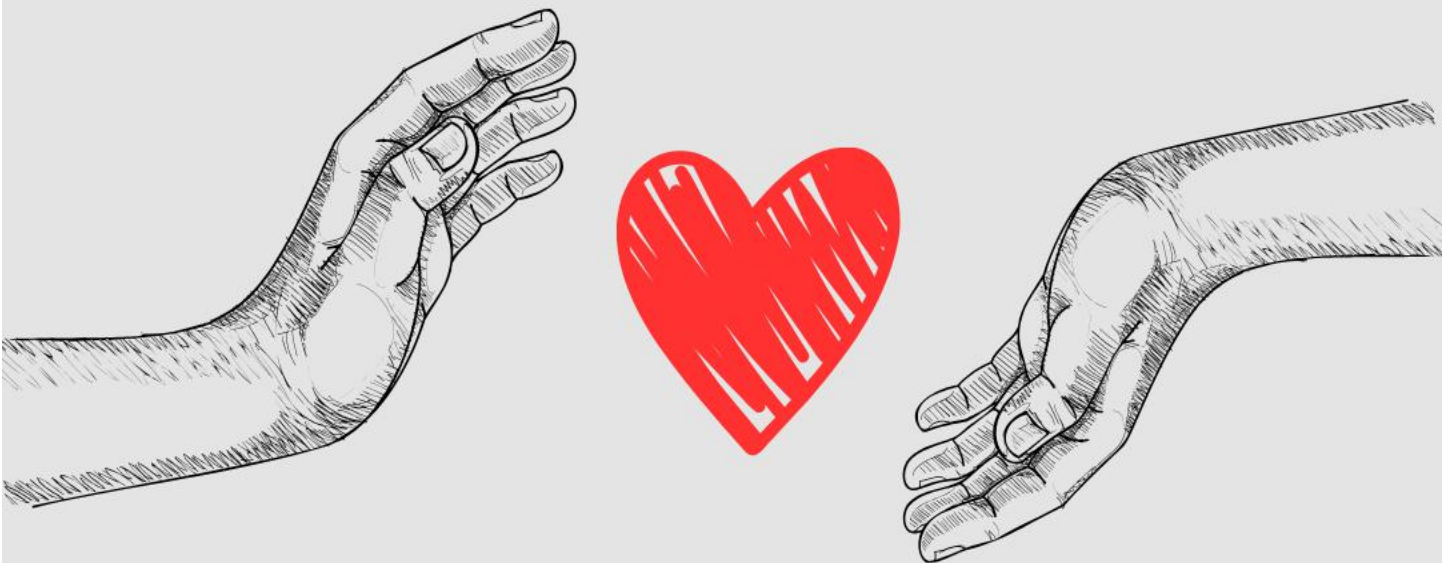
Sara Serban
Shannondale Farm
Simply Dressage
Virginia Slawinski
Eliza Smith
Isabella Smith
Mackenzie Stahl
Deirdre Sublett
Marline Syribey
Jake Tessler
Nancy Thrasher
Claudia Tomaselli
UGA
Unlimited Dressage LLC
Lawton Valdez
Karolyn Wangstad
Peter West
Dorothy Whelchel
Chanda Wicker
Sandra Wight
Monica Williamson
Virginia Woodcock
Mary Youngblood



GOAT—Greatest Of All Time

RECOGNITION STARTS

With you.



THE DONALD & ELIZABETH FASO PERPETUAL
TROPHY IS AWARDED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
TO GEORGIA DRESSAGE & COMBINED TRAINING
ASSOCIATION AND SERVICE TO EQUESTRIAN SPORT.

NOMINATIONS ALONG WITH A BRIEF REASON WHY
THE GDCTA MEMBER NOMINEE IS DESERVING OF
THE AWARD SHOULD BE EMAILED TO
ADMIN@GDCTA.ORG BY NOVEMBER 30TH.

GDCTA.ORG

2025

2026

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Federal Holidays 2025

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Jan 1	New Year's Day	Sep 1	Labor Day
Jan 20	Martin Luther King Day	Oct 13	Columbus Day
Feb 17	Presidents' Day	Nov 11	Veterans Day
May 26	Memorial Day	Nov 27	Thanksgiving Day
Jun 19	Juneteenth	Dec 25	Christmas Day
Jul 4	Independence Day		

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Federal Holidays 2026

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Jan 1	New Year's Day	Jul 4	Independence Day
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Day	Sep 7	Labor Day
Feb 16	Presidents' Day	Oct 12	Columbus Day
May 25	Memorial Day	Nov 11	Veterans Day
Jun 19	Juneteenth	Nov 26	Thanksgiving Day
Jul 3	Independence Day (obs.)	Dec 25	Christmas Day

Data provided 'as is' without warranty

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!