

June 2026

# Collected

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# Atlanta Saddlery.

40 years.

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# In This Issue

- ❖ President's Letter | Caren Caverly – page 5
- ❖ Education & Training – pages 6-10
  - The Science of Harmony
  - Introduction to Lateral Movements
  - Kudzu Clinic: Dressage with Olivia Lynch
- ❖ Grant Opportunities – page 11
- ❖ Events & Competitions – pages 12-17
  - Summer Finals Schooling Show (August 8–9)
  - Labor Day Dressage Classic I & II (August 29–30)
  - GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships (October 2–4)
- ❖ The Heartbeat of the Arena – pages 18-19
- ❖ GDCTA Business – pages 22-26
  
- ❖ *Coming Soon*
  - The Best Week of the Year: Full Camp Overview (July/August Issue)

On the Cover: Jean Fowler and Joan Hilsman - 75 year old, twin sisters - at Stable View participating in the GDCTA and Area 3 Young Rider Eventing Camp. Pictured with instructor Sara Kozumplik.

*Photo Credit: Amber Raben*

GDCTA is a Group Member Organization of USDF



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# BOUCKAERT FARM – BOARDING 2026!

Bouckaert Farm, in Fairburn, GA, has a few openings for full board. Located 17mi south of downtown Atlanta, Bouckaert Farm boasts 2200 acres of ride out, nearly 100 acres of fenced paddocks, 12 x 12 matted stalls, fly spray system, a 100' x 175' covered ring with microfibre footing, lights, and mirrors, hot and cold wash racks, on site laundry, and climate-controlled tack rooms. Horses are fed Cavalor feed and high quality orchard hay. Bouckaert Farm hosts roughly 35 equestrian competitions annually, so boarders can compete without leaving the property. Board is \$1500/mo., and includes hay, feed, blankets, boots and/or fly kit, and private or small group turnout. Easy hack to competition facility that has 5 large arenas with microfibre footing and a full cross-country course.

Contact: Ric Gray (770) 570-8671; [ricgray@bouckaertfarm.com](mailto:ricgray@bouckaertfarm.com)



# Dear Members:

June arrives with a momentum all its own. The days are long, the barn is buzzing, and our community is very much in motion. It's the kind of month that reminds us why we love this sport — the early morning rides, the friendships forged at the rail, and the quiet satisfaction of progress made one stride at a time.

Speaking of progress — what a cover to celebrate! Jean Fowler and Joan Hilsman, 75-year-old twin sisters, participating in the GDCTA and Area 3 Young Rider Eventing Camp at Stable View alongside instructor Sara Kozumplik. If that image doesn't embody everything we stand for as a community, I don't know what does. Their spirit, joy, and willingness to keep learning is an inspiration to every one of us. As camp participant Malachi Bryant put it so perfectly: *"Land Rover may be the best WeekEND of the year, but Young Riders Camp is the best WEEK of the year!"* A full camp recap — with all the highlights and stories from the week — will be featured in our July/August issue, so stay tuned.

This month's newsletter is packed with opportunities to grow. Our Education Center dives into the science behind the horse-rider connection and introduces foundational lateral movements — practical reads whether you're a newcomer or a seasoned competitor. And if you've been thinking about applying for a GDCTA Training Grant, please don't wait. **Grant applications close July 1st.** Four \$800 grants are available across Adult Amateur, Professional, Combined Training, and Junior/Young Rider categories. It is a wonderful opportunity to invest in your riding, and we'd love to see strong applications from our membership.

On the competition front, the calendar is filling up beautifully. Our Summer Finals Schooling Show is August 8-9 at Wills Park, followed by the Labor Day Dressage Classic I & II on August 29-30 at Georgia Horse Park in Conyers. And mark your calendars for the GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships, October 2-4 — an event our team is working hard to make exceptional.

Whether you're in the saddle this month or cheering from the sidelines, you are what makes GDCTA more than an organization. You make it a community. I look forward to seeing you out there.

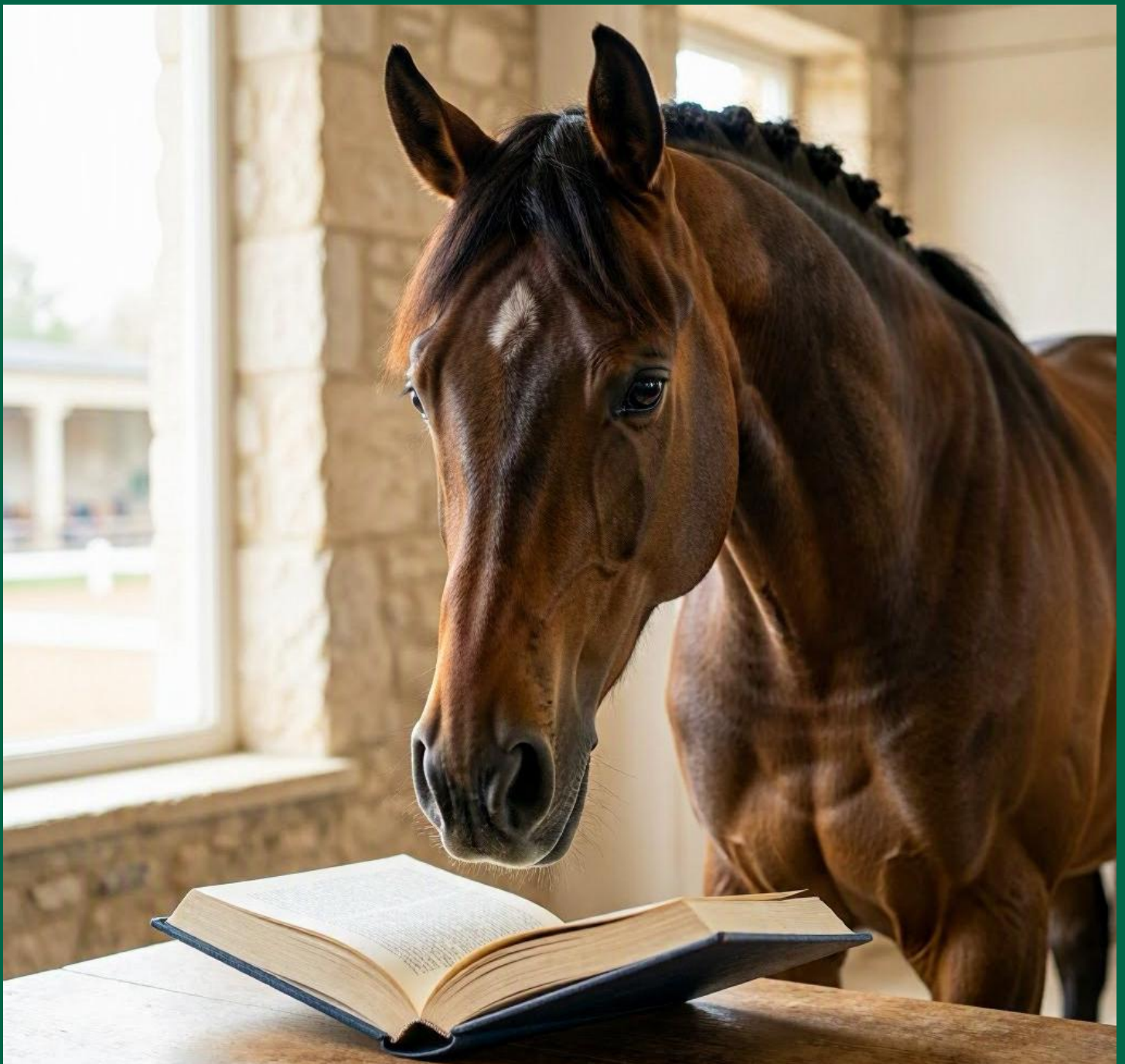
*Caren*

Caren Caverly  
President, GDCTA  
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770-713-4025

# *Education & Training*

*Ride Better • Learn More • Build Partnership*

*Whether you're refining the basics, preparing for your next show, or simply looking to deepen your partnership with your horse, continuous learning is at the heart of dressage. This month's Education Center explores the science behind harmony, introduces key lateral movements, and highlights an upcoming learning opportunity through the GDCTA Kudzu Klinik Program.*



# THE SCIENCE OF HARMONY

## What Research Reveals About the Horse–Rider Connection

By GDCTA Contributor



There is a moment every rider chases—a stride where the horse softens, the rider breathes, and the work becomes effortless. Judges call it harmony. Trainers call it connection. Riders call it magic.

Recent research published in the journal *Animals* explored how judges, trainers, and riders perceive harmony and what distinguishes a harmonious ride from one that simply completes the movements. The findings offer practical insights every rider can apply in daily training.

### Harmony Begins with the Rider

One of the study's most interesting discoveries was that experienced evaluators tend to focus first on the rider—not the horse. Their attention is drawn to:

- Rider's hands
- Upper body stability

- Consistency of the seat
- Quietness of the leg

Harmony is visually anchored in the rider's ability to move with the horse rather than against it.

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*"Harmony is not something we ask the horse for—it is something we create through our own body and intention."*

---

### The Horse Mirrors the Rider

The research confirmed something many trainers have long taught: horses reflect rider tension, timing, and balance.

When the rider braces, the horse braces.

When the rider becomes tight, the horse often becomes tight.

When the rider softens and follows the motion, the horse responds with greater relaxation and confidence.

Harmony is both a feeling and a visible pattern. Judges may describe it as consistent rhythm, elastic contact, and relaxation, while riders experience it as flow, connection, and effortless communication.

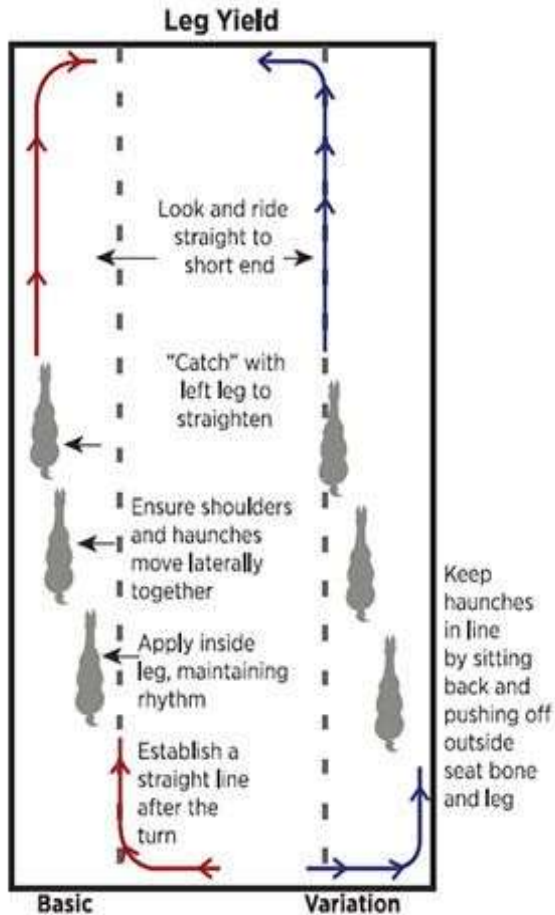
### Four Ways to Improve Harmony

1. Prioritize your position before the movement.
2. Ride transitions from your seat instead of your hands.

# INTRODUCTION TO LATERAL WORK

## Developing Suppleness and Responsiveness

By GDCTA Contributor



- Improved responsiveness to leg aids
- Greater lateral suppleness
- Enhanced straightness
- Better rider influence and control

To begin, ride from the quarter line toward the rail, asking the horse to step sideways while maintaining forward movement and a steady rhythm.

### TRAINING TIP

Ride the horse **FORWARD** first, then ask for sideways movement.

Forward energy creates quality lateral work.

Once your horse is moving forward with good rhythm, relaxation, contact, and impulsion, it's time to introduce lateral work. These exercises help develop true suppleness, balance, strength, and responsiveness while teaching the horse to become more attentive to the rider's aids.

Two foundational movements are leg-yield and shoulder-in.

### Leg-Yield: The First Step in Lateral Training

In leg-yield, the horse moves both forward and sideways, stepping away from the rider's inside leg while maintaining rhythm and relaxation.

Benefits include:

### Shoulder-In: Building Engagement

**Shoulder-In**  
THE HORSE'S LEGS  
TRAVEL ON THREE TRACKS



**Shoulder-Fore**  
THE HORSE'S LEGS  
TRAVEL ON FOUR TRACKS



Shoulder-in introduces greater bend and engagement by bringing the horse's shoulders slightly off the track while the hindquarters remain on the original line.

The movement develops:

- Suppleness
- Straightness
- Hindquarter strength
- Collection and carrying power

Begin at the walk, focusing on positioning rather than angle. Maintain a consistent bend while preserving forward energy.

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***"Lateral work is not just about moving sideways. It's about teaching your horse to listen more carefully, move more freely, and carry itself with greater ease."***

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### **Exercises to Try**

- Leg-yield from quarterline to rail
- Shoulder-in on the long side
- Alternate lateral work with straight lines and transitions

Remember that lateral work should improve balance and responsiveness, not create tension.

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### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- ✓ Leg-yield develops responsiveness and suppleness.
- ✓ Shoulder-in increases engagement and strength.
- ✓ Maintain rhythm and forward energy.

✓ Alternate lateral and straight work for best results.

### ***From page 7***

3. Think "flow" rather than "fixing."
4. Develop your eye by watching other riders and identifying moments of true connection.

---

### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- ✓ Rider balance influences every aspect of communication.
- ✓ Horses mirror rider tension and relaxation.
- ✓ Seat-based transitions encourage better connection.
- ✓ Harmony improves performance, welfare, and partnership.

June 27, 2026

GDCTA.org



## *Kudzu Klinik: Dressage with Olivia Lynch*

<https://gdcta.org/Kudzu-Klinics>

There's something quietly transformative about a day spent at a Kudzu Klinik. Hosted by GDCTA, these clinics are not flashy competitions or high-pressure showcases. Instead, they offer something far more valuable: accessible, thoughtful education designed to build better riders and happier horses from the ground up.

The recently organized Kudzu Klinik: Dressage with Olivia Lynch continues that tradition with fresh energy. Set for June 27, 2026, at a scenic North Georgia venue, the clinic welcomes riders from Intro through Second Level dressage and early eventing levels—creating a space where developing partnerships take center stage.

From the moment you arrive, the atmosphere feels different from a typical equestrian event. There's no rush of warm-up rings packed with nerves. Instead, riders gather with a shared purpose: to learn. The format ensures focused, individualized instruction. Trainers donate their time, not for prestige, but for the genuine betterment of the sport, which gives the entire experience a collaborative, almost grassroots feel.

Watching a session unfold is as valuable as riding in one. Auditors are welcome to attend, to absorb insights that apply far beyond a single horse-and-rider pair.

What will make this new Kudzu Klinik particularly engaging is its emphasis on fundamentals, a return to basics: position, connection, clarity of aids. That focus isn't limiting—it's liberating. Riders will leave not just with improved movements, but with a clearer mental framework for training.

Equally compelling is the sense of community. The GDCTA is a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to education and growth in dressage and eventing, and that mission is tangible here.

By the end of the day, the impact will be evident. Horses will move more confidently. Riders will sit a little taller, think a little more clearly. And perhaps most important, everyone will leave with a renewed appreciation for the process—not just the results.

Attending a Kudzu Klinik isn't about perfection. It's about progress, connection, and rediscovering why you fell in love with riding in the first place.

# GDCTA Training Grants

*Invest in your riding. Grow with your community.*

Every year, GDCTA awards four \$800 grants to help dedicated member-riders take their training to the next level. Whether you're deepening your dressage practice or expanding into combined training, this grant is your opportunity to pursue focused, quality instruction with the trainer of your choice – and share that journey with the broader GDCTA community.

## Am I Eligible?

- Active GDCTA member in good standing
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident (Green Card)
- Actively riding with instruction for at least three years
- Have a clear training plan and a qualified trainer in mind
- Have not received a GDCTA grant within the last two years

## Grant Categories

*One \$800 grant is awarded in each category:*

- Adult Amateur – Dressage
- Professional
- Combined Training
- Junior / Young Rider (Jr/YR)

## How to Apply

- 1. Register your intent** via the GDCTA event calendar by early June.
- 2. Submit your application** with a training plan, at least one reference letter, and a letter from your chosen trainer to [janiepride@yahoo.com](mailto:janiepride@yahoo.com)
- 3. Check deadlines** each year at GDCTA.org. Applications are open February 1 – June 1.

## If You Win

- \$600 upfront after confirming training details, plus \$200 upon submitting an article about your experience to the GDCTA newsletter, Collected Remarks
- Give a brief verbal report at a GDCTA board meeting
- Volunteer at least 8 hours at a GDCTA event within one year
- Receive a special journal from The Equestrian Journal plus a coaching session on journaling to maximize your training
- Grant funds must be used within one year for seminars, clinics, workshops, or certified instructor sessions

**Ready to take your riding further?**

**Ask Danielle! [revelationfarm1911@gmail.com](mailto:revelationfarm1911@gmail.com)**

# Events & Competitions

•Clinics •Competitions •Community

*Bringing together dressage, eventing, schooling shows, recognized competitions, clinics, camps, and educational opportunities into one easy-to-follow event hub. Whether you're looking for your next competition, planning your season, or simply staying connected to what's happening around the region, this section, in addition to the website calendars is your go-to source for all things GDCTA and beyond. Check back each month and never miss an opportunity to ride, learn, compete, and grow.*



# 2026

## January

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## September

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## October

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29	30					

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27	28	29	30	31		

**Jan 1** New Year's Day  
**Jan 19** Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
**Feb 14** Valentine's Day  
**Feb 16** Presidents' Day  
**Mar 17** St. Patrick's Day  
**Apr 5** Easter Sunday  
**Apr 6** Easter Monday  
**Apr 15** Tax Day  
**May 5** Cinco de Mayo

**May 10** Mother's Day  
**May 25** Memorial Day  
**Jun 14** Flag Day  
**Jun 19** Juneteenth  
**Jun 21** Father's Day  
**Jul 3** 'Independence Day' day off  
**Jul 4** Independence Day  
**Sep 7** Labor Day  
**Oct 12** Columbus Day

**Oct 31** Halloween  
**Nov 3** Election Day  
**Nov 11** Veterans Day  
**Nov 26** Thanksgiving Day  
**Nov 27** Black Friday  
**Dec 24** Christmas Eve  
**Dec 25** Christmas Day  
**Dec 31** New Year's Eve

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



ENTER NOW AT

HORSESHOWOFFICE.COM



GDCTA Summer Finals Schooling Show

August 8-9

Wills Park Equestrian Center, Alpharetta, GA

GDCTA.org

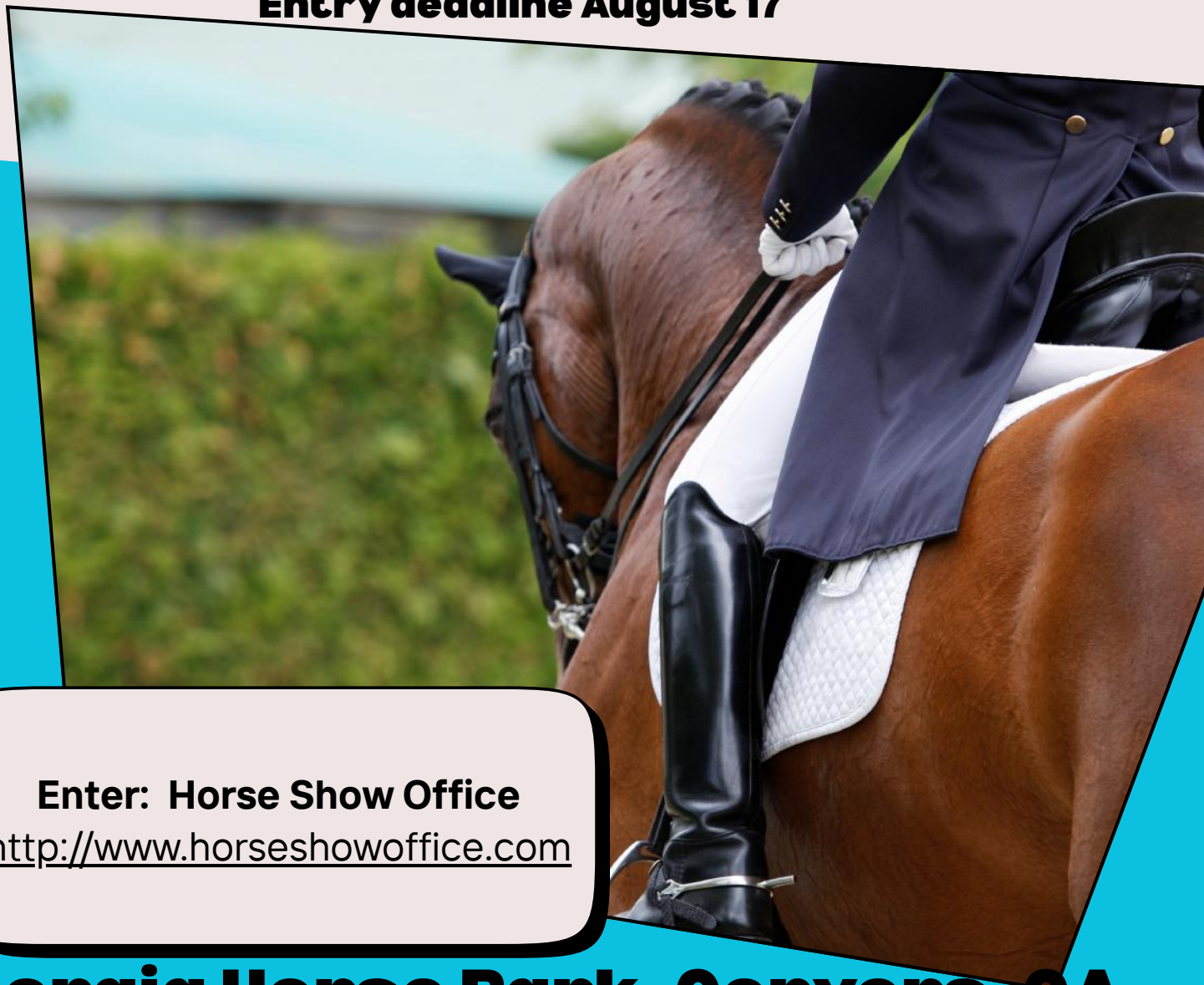
*GDCTA presents*

# **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**

Join the excitement

# DRESSAGE4KIDS TEAM CLINIC & ATLANTA YOUTH FESTIVAL



September 4-6

Georgia International Horse Park, Conyers, GA

DETAILS TO COME!

# Sponsor the 2026 GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships & AFND

October 2–4, 2026 | Georgia International Horse Park | Conyers, Georgia

## Put Your Brand in Front of the Southeast's Premier Dressage Audience

The GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships & AFND brings together top riders, trainers, owners, breeders, and equestrian enthusiasts from across the Southeast for one of the most prestigious competitions of the year.

Sponsoring this championship is more than advertising—it's an opportunity to align your brand with excellence, achievement, and a passionate community that actively supports the businesses that support their sport.

## Why Sponsor?

### Premium Brand Visibility

Your company will receive exposure throughout the championship through arena signage, announcements, printed materials, digital promotions, awards presentations, and high-traffic gathering areas.

### Reach a High-Value Audience

Dressage competitors and supporters invest significantly in:

- Equine health and wellness
- Tack and equipment
- Apparel and lifestyle products
- Farm and barn services
- Professional and business services

Your sponsorship places your brand directly in front of engaged consumers with strong purchasing power.

### Meaningful On-Site Engagement

Connect face-to-face with attendees through:

- Vendor booths
- Product demonstrations
- Sampling opportunities
- Branded social experiences

These interactions create lasting relationships and build customer loyalty.

### Class & Division Sponsorship Opportunities

Associate your brand with achievement by sponsoring championship classes and divisions. Sponsors receive recognition during competition and awards presentations, creating memorable connections with competitors and spectators alike.

### Extended Digital Reach

Your visibility extends beyond the showgrounds through event communications, social media promotion, competitor updates, and digital event materials before, during, and after the championship.

### Signature Event Highlights

Sponsors also benefit from visibility during special attendee experiences, including:

- Wine & Cheese Social
- Twilight Vendor Walk
- Championship Celebrations and Awards Activities

These popular events encourage interaction between sponsors, vendors, competitors, and spectators in a relaxed and engaging atmosphere.

### Become a Championship Partner

Join us in supporting the future of dressage while showcasing your business to one of the most dedicated equestrian audiences in the country.

To discuss sponsorship opportunities or reserve your sponsorship package, contact Aly Elliott:

Email: [ameforward@outlook.com](mailto:ameforward@outlook.com)

Phone: 305-748-0092

For additional event information, visit [gdcta.org/Championships](http://gdcta.org/Championships).

# The Heartbeat of the Arena

## Why Volunteering is the Best Seat in the House

If you have ever stood at the edge of a dressage arena, breath held as a horse and rider execute a flawless transition, you know the magic of our sport. But there is a way to get even closer to that magic—closer than the bleachers, closer than the warm-up fence. The secret? Volunteering with the Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association (GDCTA).

Volunteers are the lifeblood of every schooling show and recognized championship. Without the scribes, ring stewards, and scorers, the gates stay closed. But beyond "giving back," volunteering offers a unique education and a community bond that you simply cannot find anywhere else.



### The Best Education Money Can't Buy

Ask any seasoned rider their top tip for improving their scores, and they will likely tell you: "Go scribe for a judge." Sitting inches away from an "S" or "L" Graduate judge for eight hours is a masterclass in dressage theory. You hear exactly what they are looking for, what earns a 4 versus an 8, and the common mistakes that cost riders points.

Even if you aren't scribing, being a ring steward or bit checker allows you to observe dozens of different horse-and-rider combinations. You see how top professionals manage a nervous horse in the warm-up and how they present themselves to the judge. It is an immersive learning experience that sharpens your eye and inspires your own training at home.

### GDCTA's Volunteer of the Year Program

GDCTA doesn't just appreciate its volunteers; we celebrate them. Through our **Volunteer of the Year Program**, every hour you give is tracked and rewarded. Whether you are helping at one of our schooling shows or UDF recognized shows, assisting with a clinic, or setting up at the gala, your time counts toward prestigious year-end awards.

In honor of Liz Faso's many years of service to GDCTA specifically as volunteer coordinator, this volunteer program will now be known as the Liz Faso Memorial Volunteer of the Year.

A family member may volunteer for their GDCTA "Junior" member and the child will get the credit. *It must be a family member.* Applies to the Schooling Shows that have opted in to the program as well as GDCTA-hosted events.

- 1st \$1000 to the GDCTA member with the most hours volunteered at GDCTA events and participating shows
- 2nd \$750 to the GDCTA member with the 2nd highest number of hours
- 3rd \$500 to the GDCTA member with the 3rd highest number of hours
- 4th \$250 We hold a raffle consisting of every GDCTA member-volunteer with at

least 24 hrs volunteering in that calendar year.

This program runs from January 1 through December 31 and will be awarded at the Awards Gala.

*Board members, paid positions and Chairs are not eligible.*

## Community Connection

Volunteering is the fastest way to make friends in the Georgia equestrian scene. You'll meet trainers, breeders, and fellow adult amateurs who share your passion.



## Double the Impact: USDF Recognition

One of the greatest perks of being a GDCTA member is that your membership automatically includes **Group Membership (GMO) in the United States Dressage Federation (USDF)**. This opens the door to national recognition.

The USDF offers a robust **GMO Volunteer Incentive Program**. By logging your hours with GDCTA, you can work toward USDF regional and national service awards. The USDF recognizes that the grassroots level of the sport—our local shows—is where the future of dressage is built. Your hours spent running tests at a local Georgia show contribute to your standing within the national dressage community, proving that your dedication has an impact far beyond the state line. *See the USDF website for full details about their program.*

## Health, Happiness, and Horses

Beyond the ribbons and the education, volunteering is good for the soul. Studies frequently show that "prosocial behavior"—volunteering—reduces stress and increases feelings of social connectivity. In the equestrian world, it's a chance to unplug from the daily grind and spend a day in the fresh air, surrounded by the animals we love.

Whether you have two hours or two days to give, there is a spot for you. No experience? No problem. We will train you to be a confident ring steward or a meticulous scorer.

## Ready to join the team?

Visit [GDCTA.org/Volunteer](https://www.gdcta.org/Volunteer) to learn more and contact Volunteer Chair, Alexis Elliott, for opportunity details.

Alexis Elliott  
ameforward@outlook.com  
305-748-0092

### Coming up:

Aug 8-9 Summer Finals Schooling Show

Aug 29-30 Labor Day Classic I & II

Sep 4-6 Dressage4Kids & Atlanta Youth Festival

Oct 2-4 GAIG/USDF R3 Dressage Championships

# 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

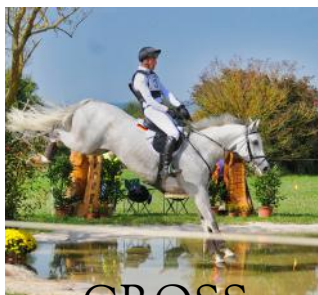
Full details on  
[GDCTA.org](http://GDCTA.org)

# 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)

# 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  
 Liz Molloy  
 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 – Danielle Perry
- 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
  - 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](mailto:designonpenny@yahoo.com) and [webmaster@gdcta.org](mailto:webmaster@gdcta.org).

## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

For information, please email: [webmaster@gdcta.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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**  
April 21, 2026

President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on April 21, 2026, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Joanne Morse performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse, Carol Tresan, Abi Kroupa, Peter West, Danielle Perry, Lindsey Burns, Doreen Durr-Sullivan, and Noel Muehlbauer were present. Liz Molloy was also in attendance as a guest. The minutes from March 16, 2026, Board Meeting were emailed to the board. Carol motioned to accept minutes; Abi seconded. The board voted to accept the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report** – (Peter): Small loss which is normal for this month.

**VP Dressage Report** – (Abi): No report

**VP Combined Training** – (Joanne): Working on camp. Expecting the same number as participants as last year.

**Membership Report** – (Mary Lou): No report

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communication** (Joanne): Published the April newsletter. Working on May.
- **Show Committee** (Caren): Spring Fling last weekend was great! Caren showed appreciation to all the board members who stepped in to help while Caren was out of town. Ran 100 horses. Waiting on a bill from Wills Park so have the final profit/loss for that weekend. Lack of communication from Wills Park created an issue with RV spots for riders that had to be handled. Next show is GADS at Conyers. Currently have two rings with a possible third.
- **Finance** (Peter): No report

- **Youth Program** (Joanne): Liz Molloy held a zoom meeting for D4k committee. Looking for a volunteer coordinator and someone to help with sponsorship.
- **Awards** (Janie): Grants opened Feb 1<sup>st</sup> and close June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Education** (Joanne and Abi): Joanne is working on camp. Anyone interested in doing a clinic, Abi is welcome to help on the admin side.
- **Gala** (Caren): No report
- **Regionals** (Caren): Caren attended the spring board meeting for USDF. The board discussed the 2025 Region 3 regionals and has gone back and said that GDCTA now needs to have a co-manager for the show which would incur an additional \$15k expense that was not in the budget. There were several discussions about this topic and left it with the final decision that GDCTA had to get a co-manager. A level 5 manager approached Caren and offered her services for free; we just have to cover air fare and hotel. Caren is working hard on additional details for regionals. Danielle Perry will oversee scribes and the volunteer coordinator; Aly will oversee other volunteer positions and is working on sponsors. There will be two separate awards tables, one for championship awards and one for regular show awards. Each ring will have a runner to grab tests but then there will be a collector on a golf cart to go around and pick up tests to drop at the office. There will be an index card with a QR code that will take you to a survey to fill out on the regionals experience.
- **Nominating**: NA

## OLD BUSINESS

**Email Blasts** – (Caren): GADS, Camp, Volunteers for Regionals

## NEW BUSINESS

- New members for May – Lindsey Burns

Caren brought up to the board that Janie missed 6 meetings last year and has already missed 3 for this year. We have a "3 missed meeting rule" that we have not enforced in previous years with Janie. Caren made a motion that we ask Janie to step down, and we ask Liz Molloy to step back onto the



board as a member at large. Joanne Seconded. The board recognizes Janie's commitment to GDCTA and wants to make sure that she knows how much she is appreciated. Janie will be encouraged to stay on as a committee member and continue to chair the committee that she is already on. The board voted to ask Janie to step down and move Liz into the open at large board member position.

Carol motioned to adjourn, and Danielle seconded. 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](mailto:ccaverly@comcast.net)



**STAY CONNECTED**

# Bring Your Own Hot Spot

Enjoy seamless  
internet at the  
horse show!

# 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  
Eliot Axt  
Julie Bakken  
Caryl Berzack \*  
Beth Bishop  
Meghan Cameron  
Jamie Comstock  
Lisa Curtin \*  
Ains Cushion  
Evelyn Dampier  
Terr Davis  
Susan Day \*  
Abbey Dondanville  
Anne Dutton  
Kimberly Faist  
Robin Felton  
Candice Flig  
Kathy Gilker  
Rhonda Hamel  
Amy Hoffield  
Michele Jester  
Betsy Kaywood  
Holly Kohaut  
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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  
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Mirrors for Training USA  
Richard's Equine Video  
Simply Dressage  
White Pines Farm



GOAT—Greatest Of All Time

## 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!*