Collected March 2022 Remarks



Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association, Inc. GDCTA is a Group Member Organization of USDF.





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NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

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Outside the Sandbox

delivering general articles and activities

Dearest members:

This year is off to a whirlwind of a start with an amazing line of grants and a stuffed-full calendar of events that GDCTA is hosting and then so many GDCTA-recognized schooling shows that have already hit the calendar – some have even been and gone!

If you haven't yet had a chance to sign up to be a Participant in the USDF L Program hosted by GDCTA, there is still a tiny window of time! Go to the website ASAP https://bit.ly/SessionA-Apr23-24 to get all the info and sign up.

Speaking of schooling shows, The USEA has added a new division called "Starter" and the GDCTA is replacing the Tadpole division with the Starter division. The fence height is 2' 3" and there is a specific test. GDCTA will use the tadpole scores from shows that have already run to count toward Starter level awards. Some shows may continue offering both Tadpole and Starter but the scores from Tadpole will not count for year-end awards.

There's a new volunteer incentive program - WILSUN CUSTOM HORSE PRODUCTS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – that GDCTA is offering for volunteers at our shows and clinics. The person who volunteers the highest number of hours \$1000, the second highest will win \$750, the third highest will win \$500. The remaining volunteers with a minimum of 24 hours will be put into a raffle for \$250. So, it's a good deal! GDCTA-recognized schooling shows can opt in to this program for a small fee which means if members volunteer at those shows who have opted in, their hours will count toward this award. Cool, right?

Be sure to apply for the grants offered this year! In addition to the GDCTA Training Grants offered in Junior, Adult Amateur, Professional, and Eventing categories, juniors can apply for the McQueen Education Grant and Adult Amateurs can apply for the Kroupa Team Real Estate Education and Show Grant. The deadlines are coming up so check them out today.

I am delighted to share the ton of special events from GDCTA:

Mar 27: Kudzu Klinic: Ride/Scribe-A-Test, Canton, GA

Apr 16: Kudzu Klinic: Scribing Practice at the Spring Fling Show

Apr 16-17 (Easter weekend): Spring Fling Schooling Show, Wills Park, Alpharetta

Apr 23-24: L Program, Session A, Shannondale Farm, Milton

May 14-15: Greater Atlanta Dressage Southern, GIHP, Conyers

June 1: Yearbook Advertisements & Submissions due

June 4-5: Jeremy Steinberg Clinic, Shannondale Farm, Milton

Jul 9-10: L Program, Session B, Shannondale Farm, Milton

July 23-24: Janet Foy Clinic, Shannondale Farm, Milton

Aug 13-14: Summer Finals Schooling Show, Wills Park, Alpharetta

Aug 20-21: L Program, Session C, Shannondale Farm, Milton

Sep 3-4: Labor Day Dressage Classic, GIHP, Conyers

Sep 9-11: Dressage4Kids & Atlanta Youth Festival, GIHP, Conyers

Oct 7-9: GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships & ANFD, GIHP, Convers

Cheers to more grants than ever before:

Apr 1 - Deadline for submission: McQueen Education Grant

Apr 1 – Deadline for submission: Kroupa Team Real Estate Education & Show Grant

Jun 1 – Deadline for submission: GDCTA Training Grant

You can find the full line up of events AND the links to the grants on the events page: https://bit.ly/GDCTA_Events. If you have any questions about any of these programs or events, please let me know. I can be reached by email (ccaverly@comcast.net), or phone (770-713-4025).



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

In Memory of Betty Gruber Smith

She was the life of the party, always ready to support a good cause and generous to a fault. She loved the equestrian community and had worked tirelessly making the Southeast Schooling Show Championships a success and promoting the Thoroughbred Makeover program. I was proud to call her my friend.

Everyone has a story about Betty Smith and she and I had discussed a new project the Sunday evening before she left us. We were excited and sharing ideas. That project will still go ahead in her honor, and hopefully we will do her proud.

One of her talents was writing and this is an amusing article she wrote some years ago about her adventures in cross country volunteering. The picture is of her riding Sunny in the first SESSC.

I will miss her, but when I question what I am doing, I will always ask, what would Betty do. I am sad, and there will be a part of my life that will be just a little empty with her not in it, but when I do think about her it will be with a smile because she made a difference to all of us.

I hope you enjoy Betty's adventures in volunteering.

By Penny Morse

So, I had the "pleasure" of being the "provisional scorer" in the tower on Sunday for the upper levels, Cross country. (Actually, we sat in my truck all day as it was too windy and cold for the tower.) The Announcer's mic was wireless, so it was easy for him. The communications controller spread out in the front seat of my truck and ran her rider and jump judge tracking. (Quite an impressive process she has!) I was in the back seat next to my grand-daughter's baby seat squished in.

So sets the scene.

When we got settled in, I asked the controller "exactly what am I supposed to do?" She said, "Do
you have any paper?" Fortunately, I did. She said,
"just write down the time the Finish guys give you
and calculate the penalties."

"Can do."

First division is off - it's the 1* and 'Start' radios the departure time.... then 'Finish' radios the completed time.

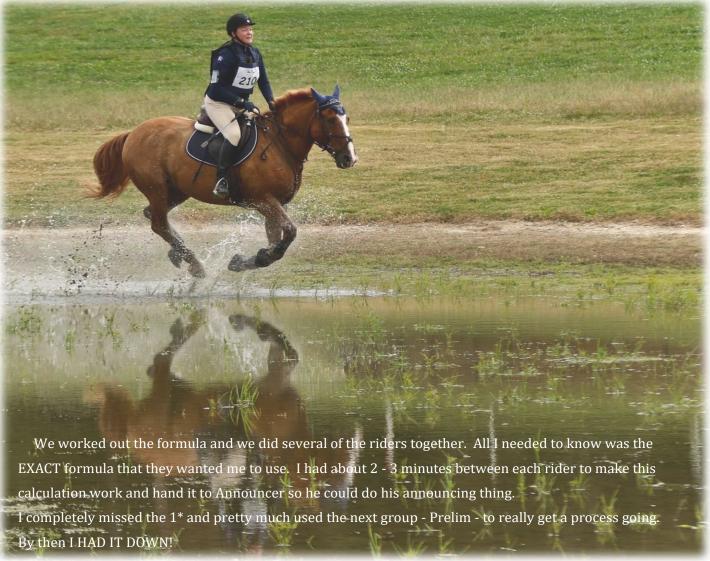
Again, I asked "What exactly am I supposed to do with this?"

"Finish should be telling you time they were on course. Radio them and ask them to just give you the time. I have no idea how it's calculated!"

(Not said with malice - only under stress of keeping the riders going and tracking their progress,) I did. They don't do that. They only tell me the time a rider crosses the line. (This was said with just a slight bit of friendly attitude.

Meanwhile several riders have started and finished, and Announcer does not have any provisional scores to announce. The controller calls for an official to come and help me. (This is now said, with a bit of huff, stress, and indignation.) So, an official comes over and I get out of the car to get a quick lesson. He says something like "Let's see if I can remember how to do this...." What? Really?

"You cannot use a calculator because this is time in 60's and not 100's. Then you have to know the Optimum time and multiple the seconds over by .004...no wait it's .04...that's not right, let's try .4..."



The office then radios and says, "How come no one is making optimum time on cross country?" I panic and triple check my formula. It's right. The riders are just slow.

The office needs to try being on the other end of the radio just once!

One of the pro riders comes up to the truck to complain. I panic again and "fourple" check my formula. I am right. He's slow.

The Announcer now has his provisional scores and he's doing math and re-calculating the standings. I get one wrong, panic and "fipple" checked my formula.

By the end of the day the controller said that I was "brilliant! The Announcer says that he has never had provisional scoring that fast before.

I might do this again if asked. I will certainly set up my system beforehand. It's a good thing that we only have to do this for the international shows otherwise I would insist on training others.

At the end of the day, I was given my voucher and a beer - it was very much appreciated!

2022 WILSUN CUSTOM HORSE PRODUCTS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



~New volunteer program for GDCTA Volunteers~

(check the events calendar https://bit.ly/GDCTA_Events to find the events that will work for you!

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

- 1) \$1000.00 to the person with the most hours volunteered at GDCTA events and participating shows 2) \$750.00 to person with the 2nd highest number of hours
- 3) \$500.00 to person with the 3rd highest number of hours
- 4) \$250.00 raffle consisting of every volunteer with 24 hrs volunteering

This program will run from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, and will be awarded at the Awards Gala in January 2023.

Volunteer! Become a volunteer by registering through each event or by going to https://www.gdcta.org/volunteer.

GDCTA is a member-focused and member-run organization that depends on volunteers! We encourage you to become involved in any of the many activities we offer. Share the excitement from the inside!

Fourney to Fudging

By Cindy Thaxton

I like to fancy myself a bit of a scholar. Though I'm not one to bury myself in 2-3 books at a time, I am always reading. I also look forward to learning something new every day. A willingness to broaden the way I think added to working with horses has a way of stretching a person. I suspect many readers can relate. This delicate dance has me thirsty for knowledge and motivated to give back what I've learned. I try to avoid becoming stagnant. I don't want to miss the opportunity to help myself, another rider or a horse understand the nuances of communication.

Like most people searching for knowledge, I appreciate learning from others who continue to learn. So, eons ago in the early 1990s, a natural pathway for me to become a better instructor was to travel through the wonderful USDF Instructor Certification Program. Yes, I'm really that old. Participating in the process gave me the opportunity to get to know my peers and appreciate their strengths in the sport of dressage. It was an inspiration. I watched and cheered many of these trainers go into the USDF judging program. Applause for those willing to put their necks on the chopping block. I love teaching clinics. I can use my voice and help riders make differences in the horse/rider relationship. So, I kept telling myself judging wasn't for me. I struggle with sitting and watching the same thing over and over again. That's how little I understood about judging.

Sadly, it took me until my late forties to recognize my desire to give back to this great sport through judging. As stated above, I previously avoided the judging program. However, when I was forty-nine my father passed away unexpectedly. The stipulations on part of his will to me was for his gifted funds to be spent as mad money. I wasn't to pay bills, as is my nature. Instead, I was to follow dreams. So, I bought a horse, and tucked a little back for an extraordinary fiftieth birthday present. Certainly, you've guessed the present, thanks to my Dad. Yes, I'm that big a nerd! The USDF L Program was my fiftieth birthday - surprise!

I researched the program and found that I qualified to participate. I studied further to see what was necessary to move forward beyond the L Program into the USEF Judge's program. At that point to become a USEF R dressage judge, one needed five Prix Saint Georges scores above 65%. I had two. So, I hit the competitive pavement. To be an S judge required also five scores, but at Grand Prix. I wasn't a USDF Gold Medal holder at that juncture. I set "S" scores in my future goal category, and focused on what was currently possible. Meanwhile, I started on the required reading lists for the L Program, and eagerly awaited our first session.

Notebook and pen in hand, the time came. There were just shy of thirty participants, if memory serves. I'm also pretty sure there were more than a smattering of auditors. Our first session covered biomechanics and the horse's gaits. I live for biomechanics. It fascinates me to no end to watch a 1,400-pound flight responsive animal be influenced by one ounce of a rider's weight aid. Our USDF L faculty member guided us through how the gait quality is the basis of all the scores. WHAT?!? I mean, I had never judged. I had attended and participated in all kinds of continuing education symposiums. I instinctively knew good gaits win the class. However, I was introduced to a formula. A FORMULA! I was hooked. It all began to make more and more sense to me.

As the first part of the program drew to a close, we all anxiously waited to hear if USDF would make our class a first and run two consecutive tests. We were a huge class and USDF typically only takes ten participants to test. After considering the dual testing idea, USDF decided not to do it.

What to do? What to do?

The US was running out of "S" judges so USEF and USDF decided to fast track those in our class with the scores to get through that ten-year program. Understandable and sensible, in my opinion. This decision left six spots remaining to test. The organizer decided to use order of payment for the program rather than prioritizing those

more on page 11 . . .

GDCTA to host Part 1 of the USDF L Education Program in 2022



Developed by the USDF Judges' Committee, this educational training program teaches judges to evaluate the correct training of dressage horses.

This program has been designed with several goals in mind:

- 1) To give competitors, trainers, instructors, and other interested people greater insight into the evaluative techniques of judging dressage.
- 2) To meet a requirement to enter the USDF/USEF "r" Dressage Judge Training Program.
- 3) To qualify individuals to judge schooling shows.

This well-designed training program takes a systemic and orderly approach to introduce judging, explain the scoring system, review the rules, and present the biomechanics of the horse's gaits and the rider's position. This educational training program features selected faculty of experienced, United States Equestrian Federation recognized "S" judges.

The Program is divided into two parts; each part is made up of three sessions:

Part 1- "A Judge's Perspective" is open to all USDF Members; this is the educational foundation of the program. Session A is an introduction to judging and biomechanics.

Session B is about judging criteria for gaits & paces, movements & figures.

Session C is about collective marks, equitation, rider biomechanics and basics.

If you are interested in attending as a participant (you must apply to be a participant using the form on the website), auditor, or demo rider, please register on the events pages on the website: https://bit.ly/GDCTA Events.

who qualified to move up through the USEF R program. My payment timeline didn't make the cut.

Fast forward a year - Part 2 of the L Program: the testing phase

I was very nervous about committing to Part 2, having been out of the Part 1 program for over a year. However, I reviewed all the materials and went through what little was available online at the time. Participating in the program had opened my eyes to a different perspective when standing ring side with a student competing. I was learning a new craft. I reminded myself of my goals and my desire to give back. I decided to go for it. I signed up. My chewed-off nails and professional judging attire showed up for the first session of Part 2. It was terrific and terrifying all at the same time. Having to tell a faculty member I admire what I would give as a score and comment made me nauseous. No centerline has ever been this intimidating to me. Each session was exhilarating and exhausting. Ultimately, at the conclusion of Part 2, I was recommended for testing. So, I tested. I now humbly and gratefully sit at C and work very hard to give solid, useful comments.

Students / L Graduates are encouraged to avoid coaching, yet provide positive reporting of each movement based on the gait quality and essence of the movement while modifying the score by how well or poorly it was executed.

Am I a fan? Do I love judging? ABSOLUTELY! Every new rider in my arena brings me an opportunity to apply what I continue to learn about judging. I highly recommend the USDF educational programs.

The L Program is for any competitor that likes to learn about their sport. Auditing alone is a wonderful experience. Each session of the program requires demonstration riders to help participants learn to form their technique. Our class couldn't have gone through without the demo riders. I know every class feels grateful for those riders willing to take a day out of their lives to help develop the next generation of judges. Take the time and invest in your education. It is worth the effort and sacrifice.



KROUPA TEAM REAL ESTATE \$1,000 ADULT AMATEUR RIDER EDUCATION & SHOW GRANT

DETAILS & REQUIREMENTS

- For Dressage or Combined Training Adult Amateurs
- Must be an active GDCTA member
- Status Amateur Rider
- Grant money to go toward 2022 horse shows, education, clinics, instruction, or training
- TO APPLY Send a 1-page essay about the rider, their horse, and their goals
 must be sent to Todd & Abigail Kroupa <u>Abigailkroupa@gmail.com</u> (561) 2843228.
- Application essays will be accepted February 1 to April 1, 2022. Winners to be announced on April 15th

WWW.KROUPATEAM.COM



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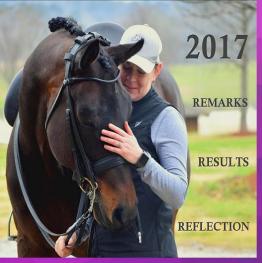
Ivy McQueen Charity Junior Rider **\$1000** Education Grant

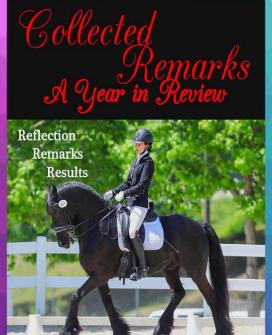


- For Dressage or Combined Training Juniors Riders(14-18yo)
- Active GDCTA members
- Grant money to go toward 2022 to education, clinics, instruction, or training
- TO APPLY Send a 1-page essay about the rider, their horse, and their goals to Katharine McQueen at katharine.mcqueen@gmail.com - (404) 989-4458 before April 1, 2022

Ivy McQueen Charity, Inc is a 501 (c)3. Founded in 2013, the Charity focuses on providing educational tools for individuals in need to further advance opportunities for learning and growth in a particular educational environment. To date, the Charity has focused efforts primarily in Jamaica, where they are partnered with the Child and Protection Services Agency and have supported over 750 children in government and foster care with backpacks, school supplies, laptops, food, and health screenings. Looking to expand efforts in the US, the McQueen Charity would like to help support a rider with educational opportunities to expand their knowledge in Dressage.

Collected Remarks Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association, Inc. A Year in Review





Collected Remarks A Year in Review



GDCTA Yearbook Project



JUNE 1, 2022
PAYMENT DUE: JUNE 20
YEARBOOK@GDCTA.ORG



To be held during the GDCTA Spring Fling schooling show at Wills Park, Alpharetta, GA



What Happens When There Aren't Enough Dressage Judges and Technical Delegates to Go Around?

By June Brewer

The succession funnel of judges in the United States does not appear to have kept up with qualifications required to judge at the highest national levels, let alone the international levels.

Understanding the biomechanical aspects of a performance in the high-performance competition arena takes a judge thousands of hours of careful study in honing their craft. They travel the country, spending their days sitting in boxes judging, if they are lucky, discussing their observations with one another and the riders. Being a judge is not merely a calling, it is a way of life.

USEF judge-training programs; and to provide continuing education for licensed USEF judges and "L" graduates.

The program has two parts and four sessions. The first part, "A Judge's Perspective," is open to all USDF members, with three weekend sessions on horse and rider biomechanics and judging criteria. The second part, "Candidate's Evaluation," is for those who plan to judge and is open to those with verified scores at Second Level or above. It involves practice judging full tests plus a written and practical exam.

"We have lost some of our senior FEI judges in recent years, will lose several this year, and lose more next year. This is a drastic drain of judging experience, and it will take some time to rebuild this reservoir of knowledge."

--Axel Steiner

Even though the United States has excellent programs for the education of its dressage judges, there are too few applying and working their way up the judging chain.

"We, by far, have the best judge programs in the world," says Lois Yukins, FEI 4* judge. "It's hard, but it's expensive. I can't think of a way around the expense."

The educational programs are readily available for our future judges but how are we preparing them for the judging lifestyle and how are we supporting them financially? Questions to ponder!

The "L" Education Program

The ABCs of judging start with the "L" Education Program, which has several goals: to provide insight into the techniques of judging for anyone interested in dressage; to prepare candidates who want to enter the

Apprentice Technical Delegate Clinic

USDF holds the USDF Apprentice Technical Delegate Clinic virtually or in conjunction with the USDF Annual Convention. This clinic is geared as an introduction to the role and purpose of a dressage technical delegate, and also serves as a prerequisite for enrollment into the US Equestrian dressage technical delegate program. This clinic is open to all, and can help owners, riders, trainers, and competition management gain insight into how to best utilize their technical delegate as a valued competition resource.

For questions or further information, please contact USDF at tdinfo@usdf.org or call (859) 971-2277.

As intimidating as it may be to some, competitors, show managers, owners and trainers should be willing to play a part in the process of preparing judges for the important and difficult task of judging.

Enter for both the Spring Fling April 16-17 and the Summer Finals August 13-14 Schooling Shows



TEAM CHALLENGE

Teams can be made of any number (minimum of 2) of riders doing any level. Percentage scores will be added together and averaged to determine a total team score used for placing. CT dressage scores will be converted to dressage percentages. Trophy to the winning team!

This is for all you families, instructors, and riders out there who would love to be on a team with friends and family or who want to get a Barn Team together.

To enter the Team Challenge, email Caren Caverly ccaverly@comcast.net with the name of your team and the names of teammates. If you want to put a "scramble team" together on the show grounds, drop off the teamnames with the list of members at the office. The show office will take care of the rest!

Enter on EqEntries.com

Continued from page 15 . . .

While show management, volunteers, and competitors are crucial, officials – judges and technical delegates – are the backbone of dressage competitions, ensuring fair evaluation using a universal methodology and safe competition for all competitors by enforcing the rules and regulations that govern the sport of dressage.

If you like being outside and are prepared for a lifelong learning experience, a career as a show official could be the perfect lifestyle for you!

GDCTA is hosting Part 1 of the "L" Program at Shannondale Farm in Milton, Georgia in 2022. Part 2 is tentatively planned for early 2023.

Part 1

Session A: April 23-24

Session B: July 9-10

Session C: August 20-21

Sign up to be a Participant in the "L" Program by March 15th to have enough time to read all the pre-class homework.

Silent auditors are welcome.

Sign up on the website: gdcta.org.

State of the Youth Program

By Liz Molloy

The GDCTA Youth Riders have accomplished an amazing amount of success this year. At the FEI Level, one of the highest honors is to qualify for, make the team, and compete at the North American Youth Championships. GDCTA is very proud of our youth who attended this prestigious event. GDCTA members represented! The Region 3 Junior Team took the Bronze with Kat Fuqua on Dreamgirl earning 67.364%. The Region 3 Youth rider Team landed in fourth place with Suzannah Rogers on Paladine of Elysium earning 67.618%.

A total of 29 youth athletes participated in the inaugural Adequan/USEF Eventing Youth Team Challenge Aiken on March 25-27, 2021, at Stable View Farm in Aiken, South Carolina, including GDCTA member Crocket Miller. Crockett finished eighth in the CCI1* Overall Individual final standings.

Nationally, at the US Dressage Festival of Champions, GDCTA celebrated five riders who competed Alice Burley, Kat Fuqua, Caroline Garren, Tessa Geven and Maren Hanson.

A recent addition to our Youth Program is the 12 & Under High Score Excellence Award. To highlight the importance of this age group, we have created a High Score Average Excellence Award for 12 and Under. This is in both Eventing and Dressage, and in both Schooling and Recognized awards. In our first year, we did not have winners in all 4 categories. Now we healthy representation in all four divisions.

Dressage Seat Equitation continues to be a popular class at GDCTA-recognized schooling shows. These classes are qualifiers for the Medal Finals held at the GDCTA Summer Finals in August. For 2021, we are pleased to congratulate Julianne Landinez who won the 13 & under, and Parker Mallern who won 14 & up.

2021 marked the 9th Annual Dressage4kids Atlanta Youth Festival and TEAM clinic with Lendon Gray. We were honored to have Margaret Freeman join us as one of the lecturers. Our dinner panel discussed the various options for dressage careers, including going to college, becoming a working student and exploring other options.

Also During the D4K clinic, we continued to discuss FEI Children and FEI Pony divisions with the intention of encouraging parents and trainers to consider these options. We hope to see upcoming riders transitioning into these divisions during the coming show season.

In 2022, this Dressage4kids event will be held on September 7-9 so please save the date.

The Letterman Jacket Program began in 2014 with "varsity" recognition for GDCTA member youth. In 2021, GDCTA added the Letterman Jacket Program for schooling show riders.



GDCTA MEMBER TRAINING GRANTS

The GDCTA Grant has been established to provide funding support for GDCTA member-riders who are working to sharpen their riding skills. Four grants of \$800* each will be offered to GDCTA members for concentrated work with a trainer of their choice within one year of receiving the grant award.

Mission

The mission of the GDCTA Grant Program is to provide educational opportunities to members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to and/or excellence in the sport as well as service and ambassadorship within the Association.

The grant is meant for a GDCTA member to have the opportunity to be in a training situation that is not readily available during the course of his/her daily pattern. Grant monies must be used to participate in educational programs that include, but are not limited to: seminars, workshops, clinics and training programs offered by recognized or certified instructors.

Categories

- Adult Amateur Dressage
- Professional
- Combined Training
- Jr/YR

Eligibility

- GDCTA members in good standing.
- US Citizen or permanent US resident holding Green card
- Involvement in a regular riding program with active instruction over the last three years

Requirements

These grants represent an investment by GDCTA. The recipient understands that the membership will benefit as a result of the recipient's experience, therefore it is a requirement that the recipient will:

- write an article for the GDCTA newsletter, Collected Remarks, for use on the GDCTA website and for GDCTA's use in other publications
- give a verbal report at a GDCTA board meeting as soon as possible after their training is complete
- volunteer at least 8 hours (or the equivalent of one day) at a GDCTA function within a year of receiving the grant.

Opening Date: February 1, 2021

Closing Date: June 1, 2021

Winner Announcement: July 1, 2021

Apply online:

www.gdcta.org/training-grants

Questions?

Janie Pride Grant Program Committee Chair 706-326-4354

*I understand that I will receive an initial \$600 of the

grant after details of my training are confirmed, and one month before my training; the balance in the amount of \$200 will be sent to me when the GDCTA newsletter editors receive my training experience article.

The Equestrian Journal - for winners



In 2020, each GDCTA grant recipient will also receive a special journal donated by The Equestrian Journal. Journaling is a great tool to help you organize your thoughts and record your progress.

Learn more: https://www.theequestrianjournal.com



USEF Establishes the USEF Ukraine Relief Fund to Support Ukraine Horses and Equestrians

Lexington, Ky. - US Equestrian will be joining the FEI in their recently announced efforts to provide support to the equestrian community of Ukraine by establishing the USEF Ukraine Relief Fund. One-hundred percent of funds collected will go to the FEI solidarity relief fund and directly to those in need of support. The FEI is liaising closely with the Ukrainian Equestrian Federation (UEF) and neighboring countries to facilitate support. The USEF Board of Directors has committed to allocating additional relief funding.

The UEF reports "Horse owners, riding schools, athletes, breeders, and professionals are in desperate conditions without any resources of saving their horses. By making a donation or offering help, you will provide the Ukrainian equestrian community a hope for a better future and save lives of the Ukrainians and their loved ones."

USEF President Tom O'Mara reinforced the importance of the Ukraine relief effort, stating, "The U.S. equestrian community always comes together to help fellow equestrians and horses in need. The acts of war in the Ukraine require all of us to join in supporting human and horse welfare in the areas impacted however we can. We will work closely with FEI to ensure all funds contributed are distributed to those who need it most."

To make a tax deductible donation please visit the USEF Ukraine Relief Fund Donation and help horses page or send a check to USEF Memo: USEF Ukraine Relief Fund.

https://www.usef.org/donate

United States Equestrian Federation 4001 Wing commander Way Lexington, KY 40511

DRESSAGE



Correct Seat and Position - A Prerequisite to The Dressage Training Scale.

Written by Abigail Kroupa and originally posted at www.EruditeEquestrian.com

Have you ever noticed that the purpose of each dressage level is stated at the top of each test? Furthermore, in the collective remarks section of your dressage score sheet, you will find, "Rider's Position and Seat (Alignment, posture, stability, weight placement; following mechanics of the gaits)

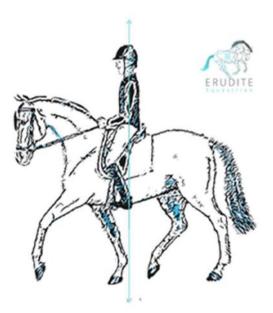


One essential prerequisite of the Dressage Training Scale is the rider's position and seat. It is important as a rider to have a strong foundation in your riding position before successfully moving up the training pyramid and dressage levels. The horse's way of going is heavily influenced by the way you ride them. First mastering a correct position and seat will help you develop the skills and feel needed for correct aids and training of the horse through the levels of Dressage.

Seat and Legs

The dressage seat is the first requirement of having a good position. Developing an independent, balanced, and deep seat with relaxed and supple hips is essential to the rest of the rider's position. In a correct seat, the rider's weight is placed directly over the horse's center of gravity. Body awareness is the key to every improvement of the rider's seat and influence on the horse. It is best developed through consistent work on

the lunge where the rider can focus strictly on improving their position, and the instructor can give immediate feedback of the student's seat and position.



The Dressage Seat

The rider should sit level with weight evenly distributed on their two-seat bones and groin. The thighs should lie free of tension against the saddle in a position that aligns the rider's heel with his hip (and without compromising the rider's weight being evenly distributed in their two seat bones and groin).

A correct seat allows the rider to have the hip extending to a relaxed thigh and a properly placed knee. The knees should be slightly bent and flat along the side of the saddle. There should be no daylight between the knees and the saddle. The lower legs and calves should be draped around the horse's barrel. In a neutral body position, the rider's toes should be just under his knee, and the heels should be under the rider's hips. Attention must be paid to maintaining a relaxed, open hip joint. The rider's legs should not grip or pinch the saddle. This creates muscle tension and makes the rider stiff in his hips.



Regulating and forward-driving leg positions are nearly the same

The rider's feet should remain relatively parallel to the horse's side. The angle may vary slightly based on the confirmation of the rider and the horse. The rider's feet should rest on the stirrups without forcefully pushing against them. The stirrups are placed under the ball and foot with a flexible ankle joint. Heels should be back and down. Artificially flexing the ankle joint and forcing the heel down will prevent the rider from absorbing the motion and movement of the horse's gaits.

Torso

The torso, trunk, or core are anatomical terms for the central part of the human body. The torso includes the chest, abdominal section, pelvis, and back muscles. (Sometimes, trainers use the term core to refer to the abdomen muscles only. If they ask you to engage your core, it may be helpful to ask them what areas of the torso they are referring to). The rider's torso should be in an upright position over the seat bones. The rider should have the ability to hold a "neutral spine" position. The abdominal, chest, and back muscles of the rider help to maintain a secure and aligned posture. The strength of the lower torso (abdominal and lower back) prevents the rider's buttock from bouncing out of the saddle in the sitting trot. The rider's upper and lower torso strength prevents the rider from moving the upper body too much in the canter. An engaged lower torso gives you better stability. The muscles of the rider's abdomen and core should not be held rigid but should remain strong. There should be a straight line from the rider's ear, through the shoulder, to the middle of the hip, and ankle.



Correct vertical alignment and balance of the rider

Shoulders & Arms

The upper arms of the rider should hang vertically down or slightly forward from the shoulder joint. The upper arm should never angle towards the back. The rider's elbow is gently bent. Forearms and elbows should not be turned out or stiff. The elbow joint and shoulder joint of the rider should remain elastic.

The rider's shoulders should remain parallel with the horse's shoulders and the rider's hips. On curved, lines the rider's alignment should follow the alignment of the horse's spine. The rider should not "overtwist" their shoulders or torso.

The rider's hands should be positioned in front of the pommel of the saddle. The wrists should be straight but flexible and not bent inward or outward. There should be a straight line from the horse's bit to the rider's elbow. Ideally, the hands of the rider should be the width of the horse's withers. The reins of a snaffle bit should be placed between the rider's third and fourth fingers, across the rider's palm, and held between the thumb and pointer finger.

Head and Eyes

A person's head is quite heavy and weighs an average of 11 lbs. It can significantly impact the rider's position, and the horse can easily feel the imbalance of the rider's head. Looking forward through the horse's ears helps maintain the correct alignment of the head and spine. A rider having a simple bad habit of looking down

can change the rider's entire position and create unwanted tension in the neck and back. Looking down also folds the chest and abdomen forward, which tightens and closes the rider's hips and pelvis. This tension in the hips relates to the riders having supple, relaxed hips and their ability to effectively follow the horse's movement.



movement, but don't lean forward, or you will bump your nose on the merry-go-round pole. Lean back, and you will slide off or grab the merry-go-round pole (or your horse's mouth to balance!)

References: USDF Teaching Manual Second Edition, The United States Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship: Basics for Beginners / D Level by Susan Harris

Tips:

- Take a deep breath! It relaxes your seat, back, and helps you find your deep seat.
- Don't grip your knees or thighs. Let them lie relaxed against the horse's side.
- To find your natural balance and alignment, at the halt, stand straight up in the stirrups for 5 seconds and sit back down.
- Keep your toes pointing forward and your knees against the saddle.
- Keep your torso strong and engaged, but not stiff and tight.
- For alignment and making your body longer "Think of your body as a marionette/string
 puppet, and the puppeteer is pulling your upper
 body straight up from the top of your head."
- Think of your horse's energy flowing through all the joints of your body like running water. For calm and quiet, you want slow-moving water like a babbling creek; for more energy and impulsion, you want robust and powerful water like a fire hose or waterfall. You control the water with your position and seat! Don't let the horse's energy splash out of control.
- In the canter, imagine you are riding a carousel horse. Let your hips follow the horse's



EVENTING

3 times the fun



AREA III 2022 Young Riders Coach and Selectors Named

February 23, 2022

Greetings Area III Young Riders and parents,

The Area III council met last night and voted unanimously on our coach and selectors for 2022. I am pleased to announce that our Area III Coach is Ashley Johnson and our Area III Selectors are Hilda Donahue, Lauren Eckardt, Michael Pollard, and Sarah Dunkerton Sizemore. I believe this is going to be an exciting year and hope you have renewed your

Young Rider membership.

Just a reminder if you want Area III Young Rider swag the fundraiser closes tomorrow night (the 24th). Go to https://customink.com/fundraising/area3youngriderscollection to check out what is offered.

Sincerely, Lee Ann Gilson Area III Young Rider Coordinator



GDCTA BUSINESS

a glimpse behind the curtain



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

Abby Cameron Taylor Amanda Moretz Bodywork

Amy Hoffield

Ann Caverly

Atlanta Saddlery

Brad Thatcher

Caitlyn Brennan

Cara McNamee, DVM

Caren Caverly

Caryl Berzack

Chanda Smith

Chip Caverly

Christi Meyers

Christine Murray, DVM

Cindy Thaxton

Courtney Cook

Diana Salzman

Dolly Woodruff Kennedy

Great American Insurance Group

GumBits

High Time Photography

Janie Pride

Jennifer Melcher, DVM

Iulie Norman

Kayce Redmond

Kelli Agnew

Kim Keffer

Kris Pinto

La Quinta Inn and Suites

Lacey Halstead

Leah Marks

Leigh Kent-Scherzer

Linda Light

Linden Gaspar

Lisa & John Seger

Lisa Dolny Photography

Lisa Seger Insurance

Lori Berger

Lou Roth

Lucy Calhoun

Lumiere Dressage

Malin Eriksson

Mark Hook

Mary Lou Freil Melody Moore Jackson Michelle Klymko & Whiskey

Pagan Gilman

Pat Borders

Penny Morse

Renee Miller

Richard Cohn

Robin Puryear

Sandy Osborn

Stephanie Petron

Sue Bender

Susan Easton Burns

Terre Davies

Thompson & Assoc. Equine Med Todd Kroupa Team Real Estate Wilsun Custom Horse Blanket Zan Economopoulos Fine Art

GOAT—Greatest Of All Time



GDCTA Board 2022 OFFICERS

President: Caren Caverly **VP Dressage:** Abigail Kroupa **VP Eventing:** Joanne Morse

Treasurer: Peter West

Corresponding Secretary: Carol Tresan **Recording Secretary:** Ashley Boyd

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Nicole Andrews
Liz Molloy
Danielle Perry
Janie Pride
Jen Scherrens
Julie Shannon

The 2022 Board was seated at the January 17th meeting



Committees 2022

- 1) Nominating 2 Non out going board members
- 2) Grievance 2 VP's and only if there is a complaint
- 3) Finance
 - a. Chair Peter West
 - b. Sponsorship Caren Caverly
- 4) Awards
 - a. Grants Janie Pride
- 5) Award Banquet
 - a. Chair Caren Caverly
 - b. Silent Auction Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
 - c. Barn Raffle Jen Scherrens
- 6) Education
 - a. Chair Julie Shannon
 - b. Clinics Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse
 - c. Kudzu Danielle Perry, Jenn Scherrens
 - d. USDF Education Program Janie Pride
- 7) Youth
 - a. Chair Joanne Morse, Abigail Kroupa
 - b. Schooling or Grassroots Open
 - c. Recognized Liz Molloy, Janie Pride
 - d. Collegiate Amanda Garner
- 8) Communication
 - a. Chair Joanne Morse
 - b. Yearbook Penny Morse, June Brewer
 - c. Newsletter Penny Morse, June Brewer
 - d. Website June Brewer
 - e. Social Media June Brewer, Abigail Kroupa
 - f. Membership Mary Lou Freil
- 9) Show
 - a. Chair Julie Shannon
 - b. Recognized Caren Caverly
 - c. Schooling Caren Caverly
 - 1 Horse Show Recognition Carol Tresan
 - d. Regionals
 - 1. Chair Caren Caverly
 - 2. Vendors Open
 - 3. Hospitality Abigail Kroupa, Danielle Perry
 - 4. Awards Chair Peri Lambros
 - 5. Grounds Open
 - e. Volunteer Coordinator Open

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

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

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

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

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

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

DISCLOSURE

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

Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association

Regular meeting January 17, 2022

President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on January 17, 2022, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Secretary, Ashley Boyd, performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa, Ashley Boyd, Carol Tresan, Peter West, Nicole Andrews, Liz Molloy, Janie Pride, Julie Shannon, Jen Scherrens, and Danielle Perry were present. Guests: Lindsey Burns and Madison Benicky. The minutes of the Board Meeting held December 13, 2021, were emailed to board members prior to the meeting. Julie motioned to approve the minutes, and Liz seconded. Motion was passed.

BOARD REPORTS

Treasurer, (Peter): no report

VP Dressage, (Abigail): The L program is being worked on with instructors. Will be covered more in budgets.

VP Combined Training, (Joanne): Will be discussed during budgets.

Membership, (Mary Lou): No comments

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communication,** (Joanne)-January/Feb Collected Remarks issue will include Gala stuff.
- Show Committee, (Julie)- Got the bill from Wills Park, it was incorrect. However, estimating \$1300 profit on one. Got the survey back from USDF and it was better than we thought. We were aiming for 80% happiness, and we came back at 90%. There were some critiques regarding footing and food. Sent copy to Proof and the Horse Park so that they can see it.
- **Finance,** (Peter)- Dec is a slower month but still a bit of profit.
- Youth Program, (Joanne)- Nothing to report
- Awards, (Janie) Nothing to report
- **Education**, (Julie)- The clinics in the work will discuss more in budgets.

OLD BUSINESS

- Email Blasts, (Caren): Grants, L program
- Gala, (Caren): List was sent out of missing winners. We are completely sold out of 500 tickets. All tickets have been mailed out. There is a whole page of people that have won awards that we have not heard from. If we don't hear from you, the ribbons will not be at the awards ceremony. We need to know if they want them shipped or if they have somebody picking them up. We still need a raffle cashier, a closing cashier, somebody to help with photography, slide projector, help in the auction room, learn how to use click bid, and help with raffle baskets. We need ads from the people who donated silent auctions. Look at the list and see if you can get an ad from them. Must have it by Friday because it must go to the printer by Monday morning. 4 people who bought Silver, Gold, and Platinum tables which helped with making extra money so not a problem with the loss on each ticket.

NEW BUSINESS Budgets

- Newsletter Budget: Joanne motioned to accept; Abi seconded. Question regarding free basic plan or the upgraded plan. Abi asked which plan we are doing. The upgraded plan would provide links to the advertiser's link. The current budget is for the free plan. June will investigate the upgrade for us to discuss at a later date. The board voted to approve.
- Social Media: Julie motioned to accept;
 Carol seconded. Discussion that advertising could get the cost down. Board voted to approve.
- Website: Motion by Julie, and Jen seconded. Discussion that advertising could get the budget down. Board voted to approve.
- Greater Atlanta Dressage Southern: Julie motioned; Janie seconded. Board voted to approve; Caren abstained.
- Labor Day Dressage Classic: Janie motioned to accept; Carol seconded. Board voted to approve, and Caren abstained.
- Regional Championships/Atlanta National
 Fall Dressage: Abi motioned to accept;





- Joanne seconded. Board voted and approved, and Caren abstained.
- Joanne seconded. Discussion regarding outside services which include EMT, night watch, set up and take down. Question regarding why USDF fees, it is not a USEF show. Board voted to approve; Caren abstained.
- Summer Finals August: Abi motioned, and Julie seconded. Board voted and approved; Caren abstained.
- Nominating, Membership, and General Office: Janie motioned; Carol seconded. Board voted and approved.
- Dressage4Kids and Atlanta Youth Festival Teen Clinic: Janie motioned, and Liz seconded. Board voted and approved; Liz abstained.
- Grants: Liz motioned; Joanne seconded. Abi
 has gotten two sponsors who want to give
 out grants. One would be from Kroupa
 Team Real Estate GDCTA Adult Amateur
 Grant. Deadline on April 1st would go
 towards 2022 horse shows. One page essay
 to be considered. Second Ivy McQueen
 Charity Junior Rider Grant must be Junior to
 be considered one page essay. Caren
 suggested adding 8 volunteer hrs. Board
 voted and approved.
- "R" Judges Budget: Motion to table it until the person was present from Julie and Jen seconded.
- "L" Program Part 1 Sessions A, B, and C: Janie motioned, and Carol seconded. Board voted to approve; Julie abstained.
- **Kudzu Klinic:** Joanne motioned, and Liz seconded. Board voted to approve.
- Janet Foy &, Jeremy Steinberg dressage clinics: Joanne motioned; Abi seconded.
 Board voted to approve.
- Gala: Jen motioned, and Joanne seconded.
 Discussion about whether we will have at
 Marriott again. Discussion of whether to
 expand number. Joanne expressed concern
 because it could get too big and take too
 long. The discussion said that it would not
 increase time frame but could increase
 income. Board voted to approve.
- Letterman jackets: Carol motioned, and Abi seconded. Caren asked why shipping is listed twice. One amount is for shipping patches and the other is for shipping

jackets. On the revenue up \$200. Questions regarding \$75 charge for jacket, because the jacket costs us \$135. The discussion is that the patches cost more so it would help with the cost. Jen proposed that we raise the cost of the jackets. Joanne said that she did not have issues with people wanting to pay for the jacket in her program. Carol proposed doing more equestrian type jackets versus the high school letterman jacket. She wondered if an equestrian brand would possibly sponsor a jacket. More discussion regarding adding cost for recipients. Julie recommended having them pay for the jackets and then give them the patches. Pointed out that there are more patches sold currently than jackets. Liz says that the budget is a year delayed as far as showing info. Proposed limit to one patch. Proposal to come up with several budgets and come back to it. More discussion. Caren made a motion to amend it to \$100 instead of \$75 for the jacket and limit it to one patch, Julie seconded. Board voted and approved. Improved loss to just \$1785. Board voted and approved.

2022 Committees

• Nominating: two current members

Grievance: Two VIPs

Finance: Peter

• Awards and Grants: Janie

• Award banquet: Caren

Silent auction: Open

Education: Julie

Clinics: Caren and Joanne

• Kudzu: Danielle and Jen

• Youth: Joanne and Abi

• Communication; Joanne

• Show: Julie Shannon

Regionals: Caren

Volunteer: Lindsey for April show

The next board meeting is March 21 at 7:00 PM sharp via Zoom.

Contact Caren Caverly ccaverly@comcast.net to be included in the Zoom invitation.

GDCTA EVENT CALENDAR (GDCTA Events are in RED)

To find events online, go to https://bit.ly/GDCTA_Events

GDCTA Clinics & Symposiums

 Mar 27 Kudzu Klinic: Ride-a-Test/Scribe 	Canton, GA	Danielle Perry	revelationfarm1911@gmail.com
 Apr 16 Kudzu Klinic: Scribe Practice 	Alpharetta, GA	Danielle Perry	revelationfarm1911@gmail.com
 Apr 23-24 USDF L Program Session A 	Alpharetta, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
 Jun 4-5 Jeremy Steinberg 	Alpharetta, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
 Jul 9-10 USDF L Program Session B 	Alpharetta, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
 July 23-24 Janet Foy 	Alpharetta, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
 Aug 20-21 USDF L Program Session C 	Alpharetta, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
 Sep 9-11 D4K & ATL Youth 	Conyers, GA	Liz Molloy	missliz@taramiaridingschool.com

HORSE SHOWS

•	Apr 16-17	Spring Fling Schooling Show	Alpharetta, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
•	May 14-15	GADS	Conyers, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
•	Aug 13-14	Summer Finals Schooling Show	Alpharetta, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
•	Sep 3-4	Labor Day Dressage Classic I & II	Conyers, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
•	Oct 7-9	GAIG/USDF Region 3 Championships & ANFD	Conyers, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net

GDCTA-Recognized Schooling Shows

(green=pending, black=approved, red=GDCTA hosted)

Caren Caverly, GDCTA AWARDS CHAIR Recognized & Schooling Shows ccaverly@comcast.net 770-713-4025

2022 Show Season				
The Farm at Five Mar 5 Points Show Cartersville, GA Aly Rattazzi fivepointsshows@gma Series				
Mar 12	Poplar Place Farm	Hamilton, GA	Launa Des Portes	Launa@poplarplacefarm.com

GDCTA EVENT CALENDAR (GDCTA Events are in RED)

Mar 19	AYDC Dressage & CT Schooling Show	Conyers, GA	Liz Molloy	missliz@taramiaridingschool.com
Mar 19	FCHP Spring Schooling Show	Pell City, AL	Janice Ballard	janice@fullcirclehorsepark.com
Mar 19	Honeysuckle Hills Farm/LEAF	Gainesville, GA	Dana Ferguson	allfergs2@yahoo.com
Mar 26	Chatt Hills	Fairburn, GA	Penny Morse	info@chatthillseventing.com
Apr 2	The Farm at Five Points Show Series	Cartersville, GA	Aly Rattazzi	fivepoints shows@gmail.com
Apr 9	Oxer Farm	Clermont, GA	Sandra Carnet	scarnet@carnetstudio.com
Apr 16	Poplar Place Farm	Hamilton, GA	Launa Des Portes	Launa@poplarplacefarm.com
Apr 16- 17	GDCTA Spring Fling	Alpharetta, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
Apr 23	Big Cheese	Walnut Grove, GA	Caroline Templeton	Bigcheeseeventing@gmail.com
Apr 23	North Atlanta Equestrian Series	Cartersville, GA	Anthem Day	Anthem.day1@gmail.com
Apr 30	AYDC Dressage & CT Schooling Show	Conyers, GA	Liz Molloy	missliz@taramiaridingschool.com
Apr 30	Chatt Hills	Fairburn, GA	Penny Morse	info@chatthillseventing.com
May 7	Foxberry Farm	Dallas, GA	Denise Etheridge	denisefoxberry@gmail.com
May 7	Honeysuckle Hills Farm/LEAF	Gainesville, GA	Dana Ferguson	allfergs2@yahoo.com
May 14	Oxer Farm	Clermont, GA	Sandra Carnet	scarnet@carnetstudio.com
May 14	Poplar Place Farm	Hamilton, GA	Launa Des Portes	Launa@poplarplacefarm.com
May 21	North Atlanta Equestrian Series	Cartersville, GA	Anthem Day	Anthem.day1@gmail.com
May 21	AYDC Dressage & CT Schooling Show	Conyers, GA	Liz Molloy	missliz@taramiaridingschool.com
May 28	Big Bear Farm Fundraiser CT	Pine Mountain, GA	Leigh Ertle	lelittlebear@yahoo.com
May 28	Big Cheese	Walnut Grove, GA	Caroline Templeton	Bigcheeseeventing@gmail.com
Jun 4	Foxberry Farm	Dallas, GA	Denise Etheridge	denisefoxberry@gmail.com
Jun 4	Honeysuckle Hills Farm/LEAF	Gainesville, GA	Dana Ferguson	allfergs2@yahoo.com
Jun 4	River Mist Equestrian	Milton, GA	Jen Scherrens	jen@rivermistequine.com
Jun 4	AYDC Dressage & CT Schooling Show	Conyers, GA	Liz Molloy	missliz@taramiaridingschool.com
Jun 11	Oxer Farm	Clermont, GA	Sandra Carnet	scarnet@carnetstudio.com
Jun 11	Chatt Hills	Fairburn, GA	Penny Morse	info@chatthillseventing.com
Jun 18	Big Cheese	Walnut Grove, GA	Caroline Templeton	Bigcheeseeventing@gmail.com
Jun 18	AYDC Dressage & CT Schooling Show	Conyers, GA	Liz Molloy	missliz@taramiaridingschool.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

GOCTA Members' Businesses

Lifestyle Source for Insurance



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Pagan Gilman Field Agent

Pagan@LisaSegerInsurance.com (770) 283-7344

Links to websites are free to all GDCTA members in good standing. These links to member sites are provided for the convenience of our visitors and members. No link to or the mention of a particular site or vendor constitutes an endorsement of said products, services or vendor by The Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association.

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	Launa DesPortes 706-681-8748 show@poplarplacefarm.com Poplarplacefarm.com	Dana Ferguson 770-519-0158 allfergs2@yahoo.com lanierequestrian.org	Hugh Lochore 770-892-2117 info@chatthillseventing.com ChattHillsEventing.com
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HI, I'M LISA!

Horses have been a part of my life since I was a little girl. Just like you, I fully understand what it's like to be "that horse person". Once you're in the horse world, it's hard to leave. They aren't just animals, they are family.

As equestrians, we have dedicated so much time to this lifestyle. From the riders who enjoy trail riding to the ones competing every weekend, the love we have for our four legged partner connects us all. Memories only last so long in your head. Allow me to pause that moment for you and create artwork that will allow you to physically hold that memory in your hand. It is why I love photography.

Contact me today, so I can tell your story!







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