

Collected Remarks

July-August 2023



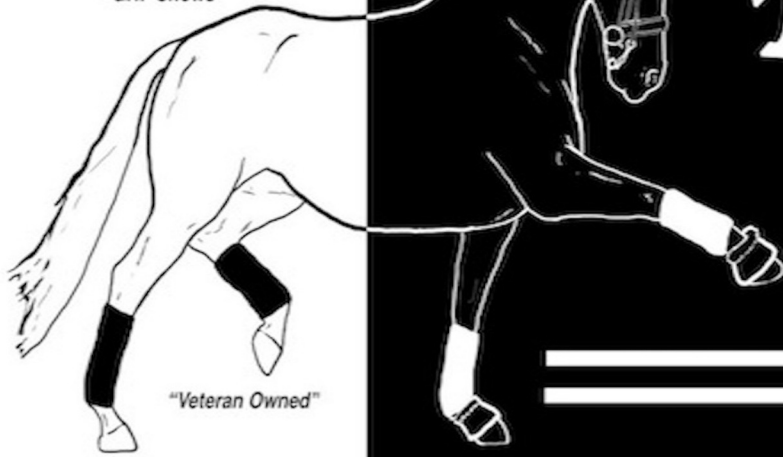
Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association, Inc.

GDCTA is a Group Member Organization of USDF.

Shows-Clinics-Sales-Lessons

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In This Issue

STORIES

Outside the Sandbox - *delivering general articles and activities*

- 5 - Letter from the President *Caren Caverly*
- 7 - Horse of the Month - Carino
- 9 - Training Grant Winners *Janie Pride*
- 10-11 - Liz Faso Volunteer of the Year *sponsored by Wilsun Custom Horse Products*
- 14-15 - Dressage4Kids & Atlanta Youth Festival

Dressage - *inside the sandbox*

- 17 - Get Your Heels Down and Toes Forward! *Amelia Newcomb*
- 18-19 - Connection Established: Debbie McDonald Clinic Recap *Jennifer Macklin*
- 20 - Bent Jenson Clinic *Abi Kroupa*
- 21 - GDCTA Members Join TDF Century Club

Eventing - *3 times the fun*

- 23-29 - GDCTA Eventing Summer Camp *Joanne Morse*
- 24 - Grateful for Camp Grant! *Kacie Pittman*
- 24-25 - "Old Farts" Event Too! *Alison Cochran*
- 26 - Thankful for Anonymous Camp Grant! *Hana Swales*

GDCTA Business - *a glimpse behind the curtain*

- 32-33 - GDCTA Board & Committees
- 34-35 - Donors
- 36-37 - Calendar of Events
- 38 - Meeting Notes



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On the Cover

Brynn Keil on Princeton at the Area III Championships at Chattahoochee Hills.

Photo courtesy of Liz Crawley Photography

Check us out





GDCTA.org

GMO

GROUP
MEMBER
ORGANIZATION

Outside the Sandbox

delivering general articles and activities

Dear Members:

This has been one HOT summer, hasn't it? Please sit back and enjoy a nice cool glass of lemon water or iced tea as you read this double issue newsletter – there is a lot to enjoy!

August was busy for our members! We would like to highlight a few. There were two members who joined The Dressage Foundation's Century Club in August - way to go Sandra Carnet and Pat Borders! - and we had members on the NAYC Junior (Tessa Geven, Alexis Troutman, Virginia Woodcock) and Young Rider (Kat Fuqua) Teams representing Region 3 at The FEI North American Youth Dressage Championships (NAYC). Impressive! Be sure to congratulate them on their achievements.

Congratulations to our 2023 Training Grant winners Katie Erpel (Professional), Crockett Miller (Combined Training), Lillian Koon (JR/YR), and Ginny Bryson (AA Dressage).

These GDCTA events are coming up:

- Sep 2-3: Labor Day Classic I & II* <https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/event-511592>
Entries close August 21st. Volunteers are needed!
- Sep 8-10: D4K & Atlanta Youth Festival <https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/event-5232996>
Entries close August 27th. Volunteers are needed!
- Oct 7-8: Fall Harvest Schooling Show* <https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/event-5115942>

**GDCTA is now using HorseShowOffice.com for entries to all of our dressage shows. And members showing in GDCTA hosted shows get double the scores!*

Find more about GDCTA events: <https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/events>

Remember, too, there are many GDCTA-recognized schooling shows available all over!
See them here: <https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/schooling-shows>

2023 is just flying by, I can't believe it. We're more than halfway through already – you know that means we are now thinking about the Awards Gala in January 2024... Want to join the committee? Contact me!

Also, it looks like we are, again, in need of a Volunteer Coordinator. We have a huge list of potential volunteers, but we need someone who will contact them and pull together a group for each show/event. If you are interested, please let me know. I will get you full details.

See you soon,



Caren Caverly
President, GDCTA
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770-713-4025



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GDCTA Horse of the Month – Carino



About Carino

When I was 16 I had the choice to buy a horse or a car. I bought him for \$3,500 and evented him up to prelim, did the 1.15 show jumpers, and now he is about to do his 4th level dressage move up at the age of 20. Enjoys a good bareback hack as well.

Personality– Carino is cautious and shy with new people but loving to his people . . . just like his mom.

Likes– Being scratched inside his ears and loves his massages.

Dislikes– Noises behind him, those rustling leaves get him every time.

Favorite Treat– Bananas

Favorite Dressage Movement– Extended trot





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The 2023 GDCTA Training Grant Committee - Janie Pride (Chairwoman), Danielle Perry, Katie Patton - and GDCTA would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2023 GDCTA Training Grants.

The recipients are:

Katie Erpel (Professional)

Crockett Miller (CT)

Ginny Bryson (AA Dressage)

Lillian Koon (JR/YR)

We would like to thank all of you who applied. The qualities of your applications were outstanding. We hope that you will apply again next year!

Again, thank you,all!

Each GDCTA grant recipient will receive a special journal donated by The Equestrian Journal to record their experiences!

Janie Pride

**AND THE
WINNER
IS...**

CONGRATULATIONS!



**2023
GDCTA
TRAINING GRANTS
WINNERS**

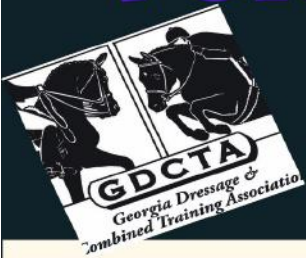
KATIE ERPEL (PROFESSIONAL DRESSAGE)
CROCKETT MILLER (COMBINED TRAINING)
GINNY HENRY (AA DRESSAGE)
LILLIAN KOON (JR/YR)

Each winner will also receive The Equestrian Journal to record their experiences!

GDCTA.org

*Liz Faso Memorial VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
sponsored by Wilsun Custom Horse Products*

Liz Faso Memorial Volunteer of the Year



sponsored by
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~Volunteer incentive 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 member with the most hours volunteered at GDCTA events and participating shows*
- 2) \$750.00 to member with the 2nd highest number of hours*
- 3) \$500.00 to member with the 3rd highest number of hours*
- 4) \$250.00 raffle consisting of every volunteer with 24 hrs volunteering*

This program is running from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, and will be awarded at the Awards Gala in January 2024.

Volunteer! Become a volunteer by registering through each event or by going to <https://bit.ly/3DQLbt8>

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!

UPCOMING SHOWS THAT NEED VOLUNTEERS

September 2-3:
Labor Day Dressage Classic

October 7-8
GDCTA Fall Harvest Schooling Show

Contact

Caren Caverly
ccaverly@comcast.net
770-413-4025



GDCTA needs a Volunteer Coordinator.

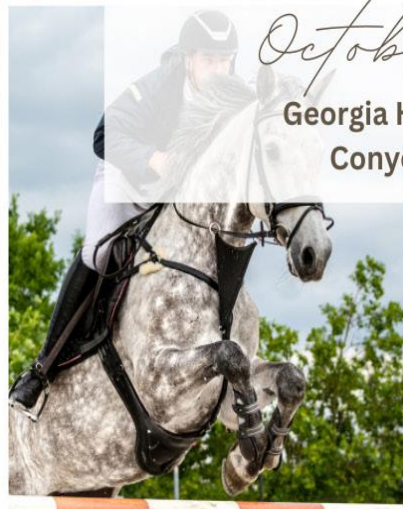
The Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for overseeing Volunteer activities for organization events particularly dressage show.

A Volunteer Coordinator helps organize all aspects of volunteering, from recruiting new volunteers to promoting opportunities for people who want more hours in their schedule. They're also responsible for keeping leaders informed on administrative changes, schedule changes, and continued training requirements.

If this is your jam, please contact Caren Caverly (contact info above).



GDCTA FALL HARVEST
SCHOOLING SHOW



October 7-8

Georgia Horse Park
Conyers, GA

"When the horse and I are working together, not only should it look easy, but it should be easy, for both of us. Only in that way can we both feel happy and satisfied."

- Kyra Kyrklund

24 Carrot Quote





GDCTA.org

New Award!

Vintage Adult (50+) High Point Award

Sponsored by
Fernwood Investment Management LLC, Quincy MA



There will be a High Point ribbon and an award at each show for one Adult Amateur rider 50 years or over and one Open rider 50 years or over as of the show date.

Materiale, Opportunity, MFS, and DSE classes not eligible.

The awards will be presented at:
May 13-14 Greater Atlanta Dressage Southern I & II
September 2-3 Labor Day Classic I & II

Save the Date!

September 8 – 10, 2023

Dressage4kids Atlanta Youth Festival
Georgia International Horse Park
Conyers, GA

- Friday & Saturday: Clinic with Lendon Gray
- Sunday Competition: Read a book and take a test; Ride One Dressage Test; Ride an On-Level Group Equitation class. Each pinned individually and for an overall winner! Amazing awards and prizes.



- Clinic Participants need to apply at Dressage4kids.org
- Sunday Competition all levels welcome, including Walk-Trot!



The Atlanta Youth Dressage Challenge

with GDCTA & Wilsun Custom Horse

Products is pleased to present

Lendon Gray's Dressage4Kids, Inc.

10th Annual Atlanta Youth Festival

September 8-10, 2023

Georgia International Horse Park, Conyers, GA



Join us for an education-filled weekend beginning Friday for a two-day TEAM Clinic. Saturday AYDC will host a GDCTA schooling show. Saturday Evening, we will kick off our Atlanta Youth Festival with our dinner featuring our panel discussion. This will be a GDCTA-recognized Schooling Show and will count towards 2023 as well as the 2024 Dressage Seat Equitation Year End Awards (next August).

Closing date Sat. Sept 2, 2023.

Show Manager: Liz Molloy (770) 634-4089; MissLiz@TaramiaRidingSchool.com

Day Secretary: Mary Lou Freil

Theme of Competition: This unique show is a 3-part competition consisting of one written test based on age assigned reading, one ridden dressage test, and one dressage equitation class, each section worth 100 points each for a total of 300 points. Overall highest score wins! We want 50 entries this year!

ABOUT TEAM CLINIC: *TEAM* stands for Training, Education and Mentoring. *TEAM* is a Program that you Apply for, get Accepted to, and then Invited to attend our clinic.

All information may be found here: <https://dressage4kidsorg.presencehost.net/programs/team-program.html>

Enthusiastic dressage riders are encouraged to apply. Use a video from a show you've recently ridden in. TEAM is now expanded to Under 25. Clinicians are TBD.

Who May Compete:

AGE: Any rider 21 and under. The FEI age rule applies, which is the age the rider reaches in the calendar year. For example, if the rider becomes 21 years old in 2023, the rider is eligible, but if the rider becomes 22 years old in 2023, the rider is not. If the rider turns 12 anytime in the year 2023, the rider is considered to be 12 for the show. *No qualifying scores are necessary.*

RIDERS: Regarding dual divisions: a rider may either 1) enter two consecutive Divisions with the same horse, or 2) enter two Divisions on two different horses at the same level or different levels. The qualifying score must be obtained at the higher level of the two Divisions chosen. A rider, with the exception to those entering the Walk/Trot or AA Introductory C Divisions, can enter a maximum of two Divisions (levels). A Rider in the Walk/Trot or AA Introductory C Division can only enter one Division. A rider who has previously won a Division may not compete again on the same horse in that Division, with the exception of the Walk/Trot Division and the FEI Divisions.

HORSES: HORSES MAY BE SHARED. Horse may be ridden by one rider in two consecutive Divisions, except where noted, or two riders in the same or different Divisions. A horse may compete in two Divisions only. A horse may also be ridden by another rider in the Leadline Class. The welfare of the horse is of utmost importance. Two competitors riding the same horse must keep this in mind when entering optional classes.

DIVISIONS: *The Divisions are the heart of the Youth Dressage Festival.* Each Division consists of three Sections: Written Test, Equitation Class, and Dressage Test. Each Section is worth 100 points for a total of 300 points. Total points from the three divisions determine placings. Ties are broken by using the Equitation Class score, then Dressage Test score and, if needed, the Written Test score.

Dressage Test Section: ****ALL TESTS MUST BE RIDDEN FROM MEMORY**** FEI Young Riders are to 21. FEI Juniors are to 18. FEI Ponies are to 16 and FEI Children's Tests are to 14. We are encouraging riders to explore the FEI Children's Test and FEI Pony Test so age limits are WAIVED. *An unofficial jog will be added for 2nd Level and Up.* Horses may be shared.

Written Test:

Written Test consists of multiple choice or fill in the blank questions equaling 100 points possible. [Please note on entry form if special test taking needs are required.](#) Readers can be provided. ****NOTE**** If entries warrant, Written test MAY be moved to Saturday afternoon. This would be mandatory attendance. Confirmation of this will be made by Thursday.

Required Reading List: *The FEI age rule applies*

ALL AGES: Rules from Official Prize List will be on the Written Test **AND** "Rules of Riding in the Ring with Others" from the www.Dressage4Kids.org under Required Reading.

PLUS:

11 and Under *Horse Life: The Ultimate Guide to Caring for and Riding Horses for Kids* by Robyn Smith

Ages 12-15 "The Essential Hoof Book: The Complete Modern Guide to Horse Feet – Anatomy, Care and Health, Disease Diagnosis and Treatment" by Susan Kauffmann and Christin Cline, pages 41-160.

AND USEF Rulebook - <https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/F3p8pgrWgAo/dr-dressage-division>

DR 101-111, DR 116 and 117, & DR 120 and 121

Ages 16-21 "The Essential Hoof Book: The Complete Modern Guide to Horse Feet – Anatomy, Care and Health, Disease Diagnosis and Treatment" by Susan Kauffmann and Christin Cline, pages 41-160.

AND USEF Rulebook - <https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/F3p8pgrWgAo/dr-dressage-division>

DR 101-111, DR 116 and 117, & DR 120 and 121

Equitation Class:

This will be ridden as a group class with 100 points possible. Riders will be asked to perform at the level of their Dressage Test, with that level's gaits. Extra movements are not requested except where the judge feels the need for added input from the rider. The rider's position and seat will be judged along with the correct use and effect of the aids. The rider's position will be judged as it relates to the horse's balance, i.e., a rider with a classical hunt seat position would be acceptable at Training Level but not at Third Level. Riders competing in two Divisions will ride in the equitation class of the highest level only (only one equitation class). Scores will be posted however, riders will not receive a hard copy of their "test" because it is a group class. After scores have been posted, riders may view comments they received from the judges on the group score sheets located at the Awards Table.

Entries: Completed Entry must be received by the closing date. Checks payable to **GDCTA**. Credit Card/paypal payments add \$10. [Coggins test dated within 12 months of show](#) must accompany entry or be viewed incomplete. [Riders must specify their birth date on entry form.](#) Post entries allowed at manager's discretion with \$20 late fee. Out of state horses required Health Certificate. No refunds after closing date for any reason. Management reserves the right to combine, divide, or cancel classes/division. Entries will not be processed unless payment has been received. Earn Stall Credit by volunteering - see Liz Molloy for how!

DRESSAGE

inside the Sandbox



Get your heels down and toes forward!

By Amelia Newcomb

Almost ALL riders struggle to find and maintain the correct leg position and it is SO important so that you can properly influence your horse and that your seat can remain independent and follow the motion of the horse!

Here are some tips to help you keep your heels down:

- **Find the correct stirrup length** - when you drop your stirrups, your ankle bone should be right at the length of your stirrups. Stirrups that are too long or too short will impede your ability to maintain the correct leg position.
- **Make sure your calves and ankles are loose** - I recommend stretching your calves and ankles before riding.
- **Half seat** - stand up in your stirrups and get your bum out of the saddle, keep your center of gravity back over your seat. Start just at the walk - do a few steps of half seat and feel your weight drop into your heels. Keep this feeling when you sit back into the saddle. Be sure to keep your alignment with your heels under your hips.
- **Drop your stirrups** - You will right away feel more weight in your seat bones as none of the weight is going into your stirrups. You will also feel that your legs get longer.
- **Do some ankle circles** - It is really important that your ankles are flexible so that you can kick your horse and actually influence your horse. While you have your stirrups dropped, practice some controlled and slow ankle circles.
- **Be sure that your stirrup is perpendicular to your foot!** Heels should be a few inches lower than the toe and the stirrup should be perpendicular to your foot for maximum stability and control.

How do you get your toes pointing forward?

Many riders have an issue with their toes turning out - it could have to do with how you are built or how you walk around, or it could be just a bad habit of relying too much on your spur to get the horse moving.

Check out the video at the bottom of this email!

Here are some tips to help you get your toes forward in the saddle:

- **Rotate in from your hip first** - if you want your toe to point forward, you must actually rotate in from your hip and get your knee pointing into the saddle. It is impossible to get your toe forward if your knee is pointing outward!
- **Each time** you go to the walk, check-in with your leg position and you may have to reposition your knee and thigh so that your toes can point forward again!

As you go through your ride, you will need to continue checking in with your leg position. I always tell my students, "use your leg, then make your leg long again." We all tend to clamp up our leg when we use it to influence our horses!

I hope you enjoyed this dressage tip and if you found it helpful, I recommend subscribing to my [YouTube channel](#) where I release a FREE dressage educational video each week. Joining the [Amelia's Dressage Club on Facebook](#) is also a great way to learn and stay motivated.

Happy Riding!

"As a dressage trainer, my goal is to make good training accessible to everyone who is interested in learning. I want to help you learn to love your ride."

-Amelia Newcomb

Amelia Newcomb is a USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medalist, and a member of the prestigious USEF Dressage Development Program. She has trained and competed close to 50 horses in almost 500 competitions and has trained several horses that she started as youngsters all the way up to the Grand Prix. Amelia hopes one day to compete internationally and to represent the United States at the Olympics.

Amelia Newcomb Dressage is based in Somis, California, where Amelia offers complete and correct dressage training from breaking the young horse through the FEI level.

Connection Established: Debbie McDonald Clinic Recap

By Jennifer Macklin



Photo: Julie Shannon and Debbie McDonald

Spanning a warm weekend in mid-June, dressage enthusiasts converged on the picturesque Shannondale Farm to witness Debbie McDonald expertly guide nine horse and rider pairs chosen by the USEF. The purpose of the GDCTA-hosted clinic was to provide a talent-scouting avenue for the Dressage Program Pathway initiative and give auditors a rare opportunity to learn from the incomparable Olympian and current Technical Advisor to the U.S. Dressage Program.

In addition to her Olympic achievements, where she earned team Bronze at the 2004 Games, Debbie McDonald is a double gold medalist from the 1999 Pan-

American Games. She was also the first American rider to win the FEI Dressage World Cup in 2003, riding her infamous mare, Brentina, whose namesake spawned the Brentina Cup competition for up-and-coming young riders.

Connection

The theme of the weekend was connection. Paraphrasing McDonald, “Without connection, you don’t have anything.”

In a refreshing reprieve from deleterious instructors who merely emphasize the appearance of a horse’s frame, McDonald focused on riders using their bodies and legs more effectively to develop a connection. Riders and auditors quickly learned how connection generates harmony, as onlookers were able to witness each horse and rider pair improving immediately following her direction.

The horses encompassed all levels, from a young 4-year-old learning balance to a stallion working toward the Grand Prix, yet McDonald’s approach deviated little from the core theme. Though impossible to capture every nugget of wisdom doled out by McDonald, key takeaways are distilled in the following paragraphs.

McDonald’s Nuggets

Leg, Leg, and More Leg

Riders worked their horses at all three gaits, and at each pace, McDonald accentuated the need to ride from back to front, recycling energy by maintaining steady contact with the horse’s mouth and applying leg pressure until the horse lifts its back.

McDonald instructed a rider whose horse was acting fussy in the bridle to avoid fiddling with the reins to get the horse back on the bit. Instead, she advised them to apply their legs into a steady contact and wait for the horse to accept the contact again, which proved to be an exceptionally effective method for managing those bobbles.

Another rider instinctively opened the inside rein as the horse drifted through the outside shoulder, and McDonald identified the nearly imperceptible moment, issuing an instant correction. She instructed the rider to

use their legs to steer instead of an opening rein, especially when a horse evades connection by popping the outside shoulder.

With McDonald's patience and kind instruction methodology, improvement in horses' lightness and self-carriage was evident as the riders applied the information during their rides.

Lateral Movements

McDonald put emphasis on lateral movements in all three gaits and additionally had riders spend a nontrivial amount of time at the walk improving tempo and connection. She advised more than one rider to enact a 'renvers thought,' wherein a rider places the horse's body into a miniature renvers (lateral movement where the horse bends around a rider's outside leg with haunches out) to supple, strengthen, and straighten the horse.

When one horse drifted in the half-pass, the rider was told to continue straight, ensuring the horse was on the aids, before continuing to half-pass towards the rail. Connection quality was tested with exercise combinations such as transitions between leg yielding and half-pass. McDonald stated the only change that should occur between leg yield and half pass is the bend while the tempo remains steady. All horses benefitted by stepping under and rounding their bodies, resulting in a more honest connection.

Rein Management

McDonald deftly spotted any rider who unconsciously used their hands in a manner antithetical to true connection. The timing of her corrections was impeccable, and prompt changes to the horses' gaits were observable. The weekend's 'top ten list' of rein management tips can be composed into a series of reminders for all riders.

- Keep fingers closed on the reins
- Maintain steady and equal contact on both reins
- Pretend the reins are two sticks extending from elbows to the bit
- Keep reins the same length and move arms as needed
- Don't open the inside rein to control the outside shoulder (use more leg)
- Don't cross the rein over the withers (use more leg)

- Don't push the arms down to get the horse's head down (use more leg)
- Don't pull the reins; shorten the reins (use more leg)
- Minimize fiddling or vibrating the reins (use more leg)
- Release tension in hands and upper body (use more leg)
- Not a direct quote, but the underlying subtext was clear to auditors and riders alike: When in doubt, use more leg!

Parting Words

McDonald's vast expertise, kindness, and fairness left an indelible mark on the participants. Her obvious passion for dressage was genuinely contagious and left the rapt audience inspired to enhance their daily dressage practice. GDCTA wishes all the horses, riders, and auditors best of luck in their future riding endeavors.



BY ABI KROUPA

BENT JENSEN CLINIC

GDCTA was thrilled to organize the July Bent Jensen clinic hosted at the beautiful Noble Steeds farm in Canton, Georgia owned by Chantelle Noble.

Bent had an engaging and kind teaching style along with a commitment to the Dressage Pyramid of Training. Riders and auditors raved over his ability to coach in a way that is accessible and inspirational to riders of all levels.

Takeaways from **Rider Linda Light:**

"Straightness! Sometimes the right answer to not getting what you think you are asking for is "do less!" I watched him share the joy of another rider's success at improving her basic skills. The teacher who has knowledge, the ability to impart that knowledge in a meaningful, productive way and enjoys your success; that's a teacher I want more of. "



Photo of Abi Kroupa & Felicity
by Eyes-On-Images



Photo of Sammi Hudock & Sunny
by Eyes-On-Images

*"I loved working with Bent. He is kind and focused. My horse and I had a great time. His calm demeanor spoke not just to me as a rider eager to learn, but also to my horse--my mare really went into learning mode alongside me in his arena." - **Rider Lisa Calhoun***

*"We had a great learning experience at the clinic with Mr. Jensen. He is truly an expert with the utmost professionalism! It is quite special when a clinician is attuned not only to the rider *or* the horse but can adeptly see and communicate what each needs in that moment to succeed. Bent's knowledge base is exceptional but his ability to effectively and warmly communicate this knowledge to students is even more exceptional! We definitely hope to study with him again!" - **Rider Alisha Hamidian***

GDCTA looks forward to having Bent back again in the near future!

GDCTA Members Join The Dressage Foundation Century Club

GDCTA is inspired and impressed to see members Sandra Carnet (on Tamara) and Pat Borders (on Reba McIntyre) entered The Dressage Foundations Century Club this month.

Sandra Carnet rode August 5 with judge Dana Ferguson (L) at the Oxer Farm show for her TDF Century Club membership.



“Tamara, my 26-year-old Clyde/cross and foxhunter carried me safely in the field for nearly 20 years. She willingly reset her mind and body so we could succeed together in the Century Ride. Proud to still be riding at 75.”

-Sandra

On August 12 at the Summer Finals Schooling Show, Pat Borders (on Reba McIntyre) rode under judge Sally Crews (L) in the Intro B class for her TDF Century Club membership.



Photo: Lisa Dolny Photography

Pat and Reba McIntyre (27-year-old mare) learned dressage alongside her Saddlebred and the pair made it to Grand Prix.

The Dressage Foundation Century Club

The Century Club recognizes dressage riders and horses whose combined ages total 100 years or more. Horse and rider perform a test of any level at a show (schooling or recognized) or event and are scored by a dressage judge or professional. The Dressage Foundation (TDF) will send a beautiful black and gold ribbon to be presented to the team at the show. Following the ride, TDF sends a Century Club plaque to the new team. TDF's Century Club is sponsored by Platinum Performance.

EVENTING

3 times the fun



GDCTA Eventing Summer Camp

By Joanne Morse

This past June we hosted our second annual Eventing Summer Camp at Bouckaert Farm in Fairburn, Georgia. As an organizer I was very encouraged leading up to this event by the positive response that we had gotten last year. Our inaugural event was a complete success with 27 riders joining us in 2022. For this year, we were able to add two additional trainers and had 50 horse/rider combinations join us. A monumental amount of work goes into putting together an event of this size and it's always a great feeling when you get the response from the community that you were hoping for. We were blessed to have Michael Pollard, Lynn Symansky, Waylon Roberts, Hannah Sue Burnett, and Sara Kozumplik join us as our trainers this year.

This was definitely an event that was made successful by all the people who attended and our generous sponsors. I cannot express gratitude enough for all the support that was given leading up to the start of camp and while the camp taking place. The phrase "it takes a village" is an understatement. I am not always the best at asking for help so the people who stepped in to help with the load when they knew it was needed were so appreciated.

It is my plan to continue to grow this event and make it better every year. I learn something new with every event that I organize and that includes this event, for sure.

2023 GDCTA Eventing Camp Final Thoughts

What a fantastic week! So many people that I want to thank for helping me pull this off and making camp such a success this year. It seriously takes a village. First off thank you to all the riders for chipping in where they could to help everything run smoothly. Especially Wednesday when Mother Nature decided to dampen our fun and the original schedule got thrown out the window. You guys all rocked with all the curveballs that the weather threw at us. Thank you **Sam Bielawski** for

coming down each day to help me manage camp. That was huge and greatly appreciated!

Huge thank you to **Michael Boone** and **Steve Spencer** who took charge with the Tuesday evening cookout. **April Hays** for providing the beef for burgers and all the other riders and parents that chipped in with sides. Such a fun evening!

Thank you **Ashley Johnson** for coming up and giving several Sports Psychology talks. Everyone loved them! Also, a big thank you to **Ashley Keller** for coming down to teach sew in braids. **Lacey E. Halstead** also gave a fantastic talk on saddle fitting for eventers.

Thank you to **Dr Matt Reynolds** from Southern Crescent Equine Services, LLC for coming down to talk to all our participants about the top equine medical topics. You were a hit and everyone loved it!

Thank you to **Bill Harris** with Harbin Insurance for coming out and discussing equine insurance and answering questions.

Thank you **Jennifer Bishop** for coming out to take photos. Also thank you **Christi Hunt** for sharing some of the images you captured with your camera. They all look so great!

Thank you to **Hugh Lochore** and the whole Chatt Hills crew for welcoming us and taking charge with ring set up and grooming. You guys always go above and beyond, and it's greatly appreciated.

Thank you to our event sponsors as well as our grant sponsors! The support is touching.

Finally, thank you to our trainers **Hannah Sue, Sara Kozumplik, Michael Pollard, Waylon Roberts, and Lynn Symansky**. You guys rock! I don't think we could have a better group of trainers for this special event.

Basically, a huge thank you is owed to everyone who showed up! It was so wonderful watching our eventing community come together and be involved. You guys are the reason this event was such a success! From ring crews to set up and clean up. It was so wonderful watching everyone pitch in to help whenever it was needed! You guys are all superstars!

Can't wait to do this again next year!



"What a great week of learning, excitement and fun! So lucky to have these amazing clinicians to instruct our Eventers! Sharing some of my favorite images from the week.....And of course save the best for the last day with CROSS COUNTRY! Thank you."

-Christi Hunt

Grateful for Camp Grant!

By Kacie Pittman

I recently had the opportunity to attend the GDCTA Eventing Summer Camp, and it was an experience I'll never forget. There was everything from riding with a different trainer every day, to attending all the other activities. Some of the activities were learning how to fit a saddle properly, learning how to braid the horse's manes, and Q&A with Dr. Matt and the trainers. Although I didn't get to go to some of the other available activities, I learned a lot and I hope that I will have the chance to ride with these trainers again.

The Q&A with Dr. Matt was another great experience. I was grateful I knew some of the things he talked about due to my retired pony who had anhidrosis, but the things I didn't know I was glad I learned because now I'm confident that if a horse is sick, I have the tools to check to see if I need to call the vet and if I'm not sure just call the vet anyway because it's better to be safe than sorry.

One of my favorite parts of camp was riding with a different trainer every day. It really helped me understand some of the things I had been struggling with and it's not that I didn't understand what was being told but sometimes one trainer can see something another might not see or sometimes they word something just a little bit differently and you

understand it better so having the opportunity to ride with three different trainers really improved my riding.

Overall, the camp was an amazing experience and I'm extremely grateful that I was awarded a scholarship to be able to attend the camp because I had a blast and I learned so many things that will be able to help me throughout my riding for a long time.

"Old Farts" Event Too!

By Alison Caldwell Cochran



What an amazing week at Chatt for the 2023 GDCTA Eventing Summer Camp. It was twice as big as last year so lots of great people to share this experience with. Koko, my new puppy, quickly learned how to be a perfect "show" dog and made A LOT of new friends.

Kane worked so hard and we both came home more educated! The intensity of the lessons is quite a bit different than regular lessons so we will both enjoy a few days off!

We had 2 incredible dressage lessons and I'm anxious to put the new skills into practice and see how much more we can tap into. Completely different experience than last year when all we could focus on was his dressage arena anxiety.

Stadium lessons were definitely not our strength this week! Kane was in a bit of a bad mood for those but I did get some great techniques to use to work through it 😊. I even got the treat of watching Michael Pollard ride him to help us both understand how to navigate through the problem.

Cross country was incredible. I could barely move the next day, but it was THE BEST experience. I feel much



more educated on some questions that I was unclear on how to ride. A cool bonus was learning some specific things to do to help both of us settle through Kane's spiciness out there. He's always a beast (in a good way) but now I have even more clarity on how to ride the combinations with more balance and control. Having a horse that is always ready to jump anything in front of him is the best feeling in the world!

Thank you so much for putting on another incredible clinic Joanne Morse! And a HUGE thank you to Budget Vet for the "Old Farts" Summer Camp Grant which allowed me to attend again this year!

Thankful for Anonymous Camp Grant!

By Hana Swales

This past June I was lucky enough to receive a sponsored grant to come to the GDCTA Eventing Summer Camp hosted at Chattahoochee Hills. I have been a member of GDCTA for as long as I can remember! To me, it is super important to learn from a variety of people in both mounted and unmounted lessons, and that is exactly what this camp offered me. For the past two and a half years I have been working for Libby Head Eventing as a working student/groom and have gained a vast knowledge and she strongly encouraged taking this opportunity to learn at this camp.



I took my horse Delilah who is a five-year-old ISH who I have had since she was two. I have taken her from the beginning stages to now running novice with hopes of moving up in the spring. She is a super talented horse and we have been building confidence both in herself and our partnership and this camp really helped us. We were lucky enough to ride with Hannah Sue Burnett, Sara Kozumplik, and Lynn Symansky throughout the week. We did dressage and show jumping with Hannah and Sara, and cross country on Thursday with Lynn. Our flatwork has been a work in progress but getting tips and tricks from both Sara and Hannah were very helpful. Sara really helped me with my position and balance, and

Hannah helped me keep Delilah focused when she had her baby moments.

Show jumping was a lot of fun. With Sara, we worked on adjusting strides and position. With Hannah, it poured rain and it was fun to jump in. I really liked the jumping exercise she had set up that focused on areas of balance and striding which is something we need to work on as a pair. On Thursday, we had cross country which was an absolute blast. In 2022, I had a fall and I broke my ankle cross-country schooling at Chatt Hills and that gave me immense anxiety when I was able to ride again. I discussed this with Lynn because it affects my riding. She was so helpful with different techniques to calm myself and focus on the jumps and riding ahead. It was a super confident school that really showed our partnership coming together. Throughout the week, the trainers really praised Delilah's progress and how we are developing as a team. That was a confidence boost for the both of us.

We also learned a lot in the unmounted sessions. I was particularly interested in the sports psychology unmounted lesson because I am a psychology major who will be graduating in the fall. It was super interesting to learn about and now taking what I already know, and now what I have learned, and I can apply it to my daily riding and showing. The vet session was also very cool. I liked that we really dove into very relatable topics like ulcers, something almost everyone has had an issue with in their barn. It is always great to get knowledge from vets as horses can be unpredictable creatures and having professional opinions is so important.



I also had a lot of fun meeting new people and reconnecting with old friends. Eventing, to me, is all about community and who you surround yourself with. I feel that GDCTA is such a positive light to the eventing community. Everyone was friendly and welcoming and that is so important to me. I am very grateful to have gotten the opportunity to come to this camp and hope to return next year. This was a lovely experience for both Delilah and me. I am so happy with the outcome of what we have learned and how to continue our education and partnership.







GDCTA BUSINESS

a glimpse behind the curtain

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

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

webmaster@gdcta.org

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

GDCTA.org/advertise

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

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

ORGANIZE A GDCTA-RECOGNIZED SCHOOLING SHOW

If you are organizing a schooling show and wish to have it GDCTA Recognized (so riders can use the scores

towards our year-end awards), submit the Recognition form. Shows won't be added to our calendars until the Recognition form is received.

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

Recognition details:

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

VOLUNTEERING 101

A STEP-BY-STEP LOOK AT HOW YOU ARE NEEDED



WATCH & LEARN

In addition to watching great and not-so-great riders, volunteering can teach you the nuances of the rules, the details on scoring systems, and maybe net you some pointers from judges and technical delegates.

BE IN THE ACTION

Most volunteer posts involve spectating, putting you in prime position do a show report, give live-action updates to friends at home, and be the first to post video on Facebook

MAKE FRIENDS

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people in your area who share your passion.



SUPPORT THE SPORT

We all know that it takes a lot of time, energy, and money to put on an event, and volunteering is a way to help out the gracious hosts and organizers, as well as help make sure entry fees are kept down.

GOOD KARMA

Volunteering is a good deed and helping others brings deep personal satisfaction

For Information & To Sign Up

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Caren Caverly, Volunteer Coordinator (temp.)
ccaverly@comcast.net / 770-713-4025

GDCTA Board 2023

OFFICERS

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

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Lindsey Burns
Lacey Halstead
Liz Molloy
Katie Patton
Danielle Perry
Katie Patton
Julie Shannon

YOUTH MEMBERS

Parker Mallernee
Caroline McQueen

*The 2023 Board was seated at the
January 16th meeting*



Committees 2023

- 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 – Alexa Ryan-Oat
- 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.

Thank you for you

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

Abby Cameron Taylor	Donna Sayers	Kim Keffer
Abbey Dondanville	EasyCare, Inc.	Kimberly Schisler Sosebee
Abigail Puthoff	Eliot Axt	Kris Pinto
Alice Kline	Elizabeth Samoluk Fine Art LLC	Kroupa Team Real Estate
Amanda Moretz Bodywork	Elizabeth Vaughn	La Quinta - Conyers
Amber Cavalier Splier	Elleene Morgan	Lacey Halstead
Amy Hoffield	Equus Optimus Training Center	Laura Casey
Andrea Krakovsky	Erudite Equestrian - Abi Kroupa	Leah Marks
Annie's Equestrian Apparel	Evelyn Dampier	Leigh Kent-Scherzer
Ashley Marascalco	Everleigh Dubois	Leila Saxe
Atlanta Marriott Alpharetta	FarmVet	Liberty Acres Dressage LLC
Atlanta Saddlery	FCA Equestrian	Linda Light
Atlanta Youth Dressage Challenge	Fernwood Investment Management	Linden Gaspar
Autumn Lewis	Finish Line Horse Products	Lisa & John Seger
Barbara Johnson	Foxberry Farm	Lisa Calhoun
Becky Aukamp	Free Form Farm	Lisa Seger Insurance
Bella Medspa - Alethea Tinkle	Frog Catcher Farm	Liz Molloy
Brad Thatcher	Georgia Sport Horses	Lori Berger
Caitlyn Brennan	Gillespie's Peanuts - Nancy Roger	Lou Roth
Cara McNamee, DVM	Glenn Mitchell	Lucy Calhoun
Cardinal Crest Farm –	Go With It Farm	Luther Ranch
Chandilyn Wicker	Golden Shield Business Brokers	Malin Eriksson
Caren Caverly	Great American Insurance Group	MangoBay Design
Carolyn Rice	GumBits	Mare Modern Goods
Caryl Berzack	Harmony Grove Farm	Market Street Promotions
Celeste Barnes	Harmony Saddle Fitting - Nancy Bardy	Martine Duff
Chanda Smith	HGF Equestrian	Mary Lou Freil
Charlotte Detienne Photography	High Point Farm	Meg McGuire Photography
Cherokee Feed and Seed	High Time Photography	Megan Godley
Cheryl Williams	Holland Portraits	Melody Moore Jackson
Chip Caverly	Horse&Country TV	Michelle Klymko & Whiskey
Christi Meyers	Isabella Smith	Mirrors for Training USA
Christine Murray, DVM	Janie Pride	Molly Shewmaker
Cindy Thaxton	Jennifer Melcher, DVM	Mrs. Pastures Cookies
CornerStone Equestrian	Joel Bailey	Nancy Ginn
Courtney Cook	Julie Ballard Haralson	Nancy Thrasher
Courtney Hildebrant	Julie Norman	Nancy Wurtz
Cora Williamson	June Brewer	Nutrena
Crockett Miller	K & L Ribbons	Olivia Garner
CU at X Tack	Karen Lipp	Optimus Equine Feed
David Erdek Photography	Katharine McQueen	Pagan Gilman - LSI
Dawn Johnson	Katherine Wallace	Pat Borders
Debbie Eubanks	Kathy Gilker	Patricia Powell
Deniro Boots	Kayce Redmond	Poplar Place Farm
Devon Fowler	Kelli Agnew	Reagan Tibbitts
Diana Hollis	Kelly Herd Jewelry	Renee Miller
Diana Salzman	Kelly Karson	Richard Cohn
Dolly Woodruff Kennedy	Kelsey Abbott	Richard's Equine Videos

our generous gifts!

The GOATS are the benefactors, donors, and sponsors of this organization.

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Seminole Feed
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Topline LLC - Sarah Southern
Triple Crown Feed
UGA College of Vet Medicine
USDF
Virginia Harrison
Virginia Woodcock



GOAT—Greatest Of All Time

GDCTA EVENT CALENDAR *(GDCTA Events are in RED)*

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

GDCTA Events

- **Sep 8-10**
D4K & ATL Youth Festival Conyers, GA Liz Molloy missliz@taramiaridingschool.com
- **Nov 4**
Kudzu Clinic Dallas, GA Danielle Perry Danielle.perry@siemens.com
- **Jan 20, 2024**
Awards Gala Alpharetta, GA Caren Caverly ccaverly@comcast.net

GDCTA USEF/USDF HORSE SHOWS

- **Sep 2-3**
Labor Day Classic I & II 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

2023 Show / Award Season			
GDCTA	Poplar Place Farm	AYDC	The Farm at Five Points Show Series
April 15-16: Spring Fling Wills Park, Alpharetta, GA	US Hwy 27 Hamilton, GA	GIHP 1996 Centennial Olympic Pkwy Conyers, GA	43 Saddle Club Dr Cartersville, GA
August 12-13: Summer Finals Wills Park, Alpharetta, GA	Feb 18 Mar 11 May 13 Jun 24 Jul 29 Sep 16	Feb 18 Mar 18 April 29 May 20 June 3 June 17 July 22 August 19 September 9 September 30	March 4 April 8 July 1
October 7-8: Fall Harvest GIHP, Conyers, GA	The Lisa Seger Insurance AA Medal class is offered on all dates. (Training Level, Test 3)	The Lisa Seger Insurance AA Medal class is offered on all dates. (Training Level, Test 3)	The Lisa Seger Insurance AA Medal class is offered on all dates. (Training Level, Test 3)
Caren Caverly ccaverly@comcast.net 770-713-4025	poplarplacefarm.com	Elizabeth Molloy missliz@taramiaridingschool.com 770-634-4089 taramiaridingschool.com	Aly Rattazzi fivepointsshows@gmail.com 706-502-7324
GDCTA.org			

GDCTA EVENT CALENDAR *(GDCTA Events are in RED)*

<p>LEAF Series at Honeysuckle Hills Farm</p> <p>4186 Nopone Road Gainesville GA</p> <p>March 11 May 6 June 3 September 16</p> <p>The Lisa Seger Insurance AA Medal class is offered on all dates. (Training Level, Test 3)</p> <p>Dana Ferguson 678-519-0158 allfergs2@yahoo.com</p>	<p>River Mist Equestrian</p> <p>15570 Birmingham Hwy Milton, GA</p> <p>May 27 July 22</p> <p>Jennifer Scherrens jen@rivermistequine.com</p> <p>770-605-3822</p>	<p>North Atlanta Equestrian</p> <p>118 Old Mill Rd, Cartersville, GA</p> <p>March 25 April 22 May 20 July 22</p> <p>The Lisa Seger Insurance AA Medal class is offered on all dates. (Training Level, Test 3)</p> <p>Anthem Day anthem.day1@gmail.com 770-743-5761</p>	<p>High Point Farm</p> <p>3551 Colham Ferry Rd Watkinsville, GA</p> <p>April 1 May 27 September 16</p> <p>The Lisa Seger Insurance AA Medal class is offered on all dates. (Training Level, Test 3)</p> <p>Mary Lou Freil maryloufreil@gmail.com 770-330-2489 highpointfarm.org</p>
<p>Chattahoochee Hills Eventing at Bouckaert Farm</p> <p>9445 Browns Lake Road Fairburn, GA</p> <p>April 8 June 10 August 5 September 9</p> <p>info@chathillseventing.com 770-892-2117 chathillseventing.com</p>	<p>Big Cheese HT, CT & Dressage Show Series</p> <p>Ashland Farm 1541 Highway 138 Walnut Grove GA</p> <p>April 22 May 27 June 24 July 15 August 26 September 16</p> <p>Caroline Templeton bigcheeseeventing@gmail.com 706-207-6055 bigcheeseeventing.com</p>	<p>Oxer Farm</p> <p>6940 Kenimer Rd Clermont, GA</p> <p>April 29 May 13 June 10 July 8 August 5</p> <p>Sandra Carnet scarnet@carnetstudio.com 770-654-3934 OxerFarm.com</p>	<p>Foxberry Farm</p> <p>2340 School Rd Dallas, GA</p> <p>May 6 June 3 September 9</p> <p>The Lisa Seger Insurance AA Medal class is offered on all dates. (Training Level, Test 3)</p> <p>Denise Etheridge denisefoxberry@gmail.com foxberry-farm.com</p>
<p>FCHP</p> <p>Full Circle Horse Park 5555 Wolf Creek Road Pell City, AL</p> <p>March 18 June 3 September 16 October 21 March 23, 2024</p> <p>Janice Ballard janice@fullcirclehorsepark.com 205-516-9052 Fullcirclehorsepark.com</p>	<p>Stableview Eventing Academy</p> <p>Aiken, SC</p> <p>July 23 August 13</p> <p>Cyndy Olliff cyndy@stableviewfarm.com</p>		



Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association

Regular meeting
June 19, 2023

President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on June 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Secretary, Ashley Boyd, performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse, Ashley Boyd, Peter West, Katie Patton, Lindsey Burns, Lacey Halstead, Daniel Perry, Liz Malloy, and Carol Tresan were present. Mary Chapman and Janie Pride were on as guests. The minutes of the regular meeting May 15, 2023 were emailed to board members prior to meeting. Joanne motioned to approve minutes, and Liz seconded, and the minutes were passed by the board.

Treasurer's Report – (Peter): Normal sized loss for this time of the year.

VP Dressage Report – (Abigail): Abi submitted budget for Bent Jensen clinic and it was approved by the board.

VP Combined Training – (Joanne): Summer Eventing Camp was a huge success. Campers and Instructors had a great time at GDCTA camp. Everybody did a great job working around the weather to get everything done. Had great speakers and unmounted stuff. Next year is scheduled.

Membership Report – (Mary Lou): Membership has already broken the 800 mark so on track for having another record year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communication** (Joanne): June sent an email letting us know Yearbook is at the printer. Swapping to a new service for the online newsletter that sounds like a better option. She is working on condensing us to one website.
- **Show Committee** (Julie): Next show is Schooling Show Finals at Wills Park. Then the Labor Day Show at Conyers. Fall Harvest in October in Conyers.
- **Education** (Julie): USEF clinic was with Debbie McDonald at Shannondale and the GDCTA got the auditor portion of the clinic.

- **Finance** (Peter): Nothing to report.
- **Gala** (Caren): Nothing to report.
- **Youth Programs** (Joanne): Liz Malloy Dressage4Kids Atlanta Youth Festival Budget was emailed to the board prior to the meeting. Joanne Motioned to accept the budget, Daniel seconded the motion. During discussion Lacey asked about the judge's fee and that it seemed low. Liz explained that some of it is donated. The board voted to approve the budget.
- **Awards** (Janie): Working on target to get the grants on time. There has been a good response.
- **Nominating** (Julie and Lacey): One person has sent info so far.

OLD BUSINESS

- Email Blasts – (Caren): Summer Finals and Labor Day shows

NEW BUSINESS

- New members welcoming assignments for 2023: Liz Malloy will do Jan and Katie will do Feb, March is Joanne, April is Carol, May is Lindsey, June is Caren, July is Abigail, August is Julie, Sept is Peter, Oct is Janie, November is Daniel, and December is Lacey.
- Danielle reported she will be adding a small Kudzu Clinic in August or September.

Danielle motioned to adjourn, Joanne seconded. The board voted to adjourn the meeting.

Next Meeting:

August 21 at 7:00 PM Sharp

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

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