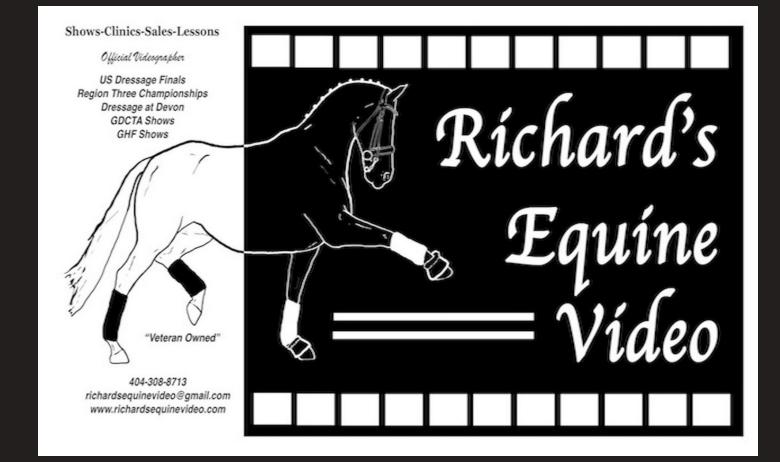
January / February 2024 Collected Semarks



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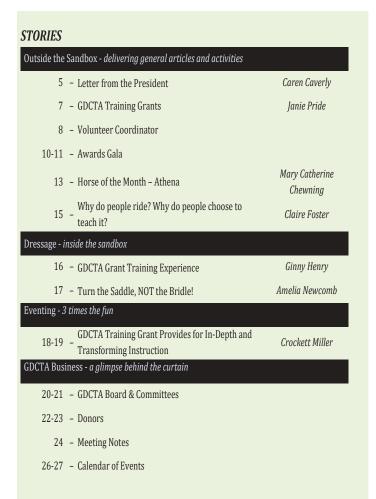
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In This Issue



ON THE COVER:

Awards

PHOTO: Lisa Dolny Photography





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DID YOU KNOW?

GDCTA Schooling Shows include the

Team Challenge and The Busiest Trainer Awards?

Dear Members:

Hard to believe it's February! January is always so busy with The Awards Gala, that it flies by! Speaking of the Gala, it has blown up into a ritual that really feels like a full-blast member celebration, hasn't it? So much glitter and glam! Fun, fun, fun! Lisa Dolny Photography has Gala photos for sale and we will be using her photos in the upcoming yearbook which will be online-only this year. We have to send out a huge THANK YOU to all the Gala sponsors and donors and attendees, alike. You can see the list of these special people near end of this newsletter.

And the season is underway! Check the website for updates.

- 2024 is the 50th Anniversary for GDCTA. Yippee! I have been kicking around ideas for the celebration happening at the new **Dog Days of Summer Dressage** show at Wills Park over the August 10th-11th weekend. It's going to take a village to pull it all together. I would love you to be part of it. Would you like to be on the celebration committee? Contact me right away.
- The countdown is on for the first GDCTA show of the season The Spring Fling Schooling Show April 13th-14th at the Wills Park Equestrian Center in Alpharetta. The prize list will be out shortly. Details: https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/event-5425428
- The **Collected Remarks yearbook** will be online-only this year. Advertising is available now! Details: https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/event-5458213
- The **Training Grant program** is accepting applications now through June 1. Details: https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/event-5591092
- The shows and clinics are in the works but expect to see at least two schooling show weekends, at least three USEF/USDF show weekends, and clinics dressage, eventing, and Kudzu. Remember to stay on top of events using the Event Calendar: https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/events. We are working on weekday shows at Wills Park so check back often! *Remember that scores earned at the GDCTA-hosted shows are counted twice toward year-end awards.*
- Check out the **new Programs page** to see what we offer for Grants, Youth, and more: https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/Programs.

Now, I'm going to tackle my very long To Do list because I need to get all my ducks in a row for the post-Gala season! This is the part of the marathon where I have to dig deep and summon every last ounce of energy and brain power I have so that I can make a solid shift from Gala to horse shows and more. Knowing how excited members are for this year is very motivating, so thank you for continuing to encourage and support me!

Caren

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

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TM



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.

Janie Pride

janiepride@yahoo.com

GDCTA https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/Programs



GDCTA Seeks 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 for the volunteer program.

They also keep event organizers informed about administrative changes, schedule changes, and who needs training or has experience, et cetera.

If this is your jam, please contact Caren Caverly (ccaverly@comcast.net).

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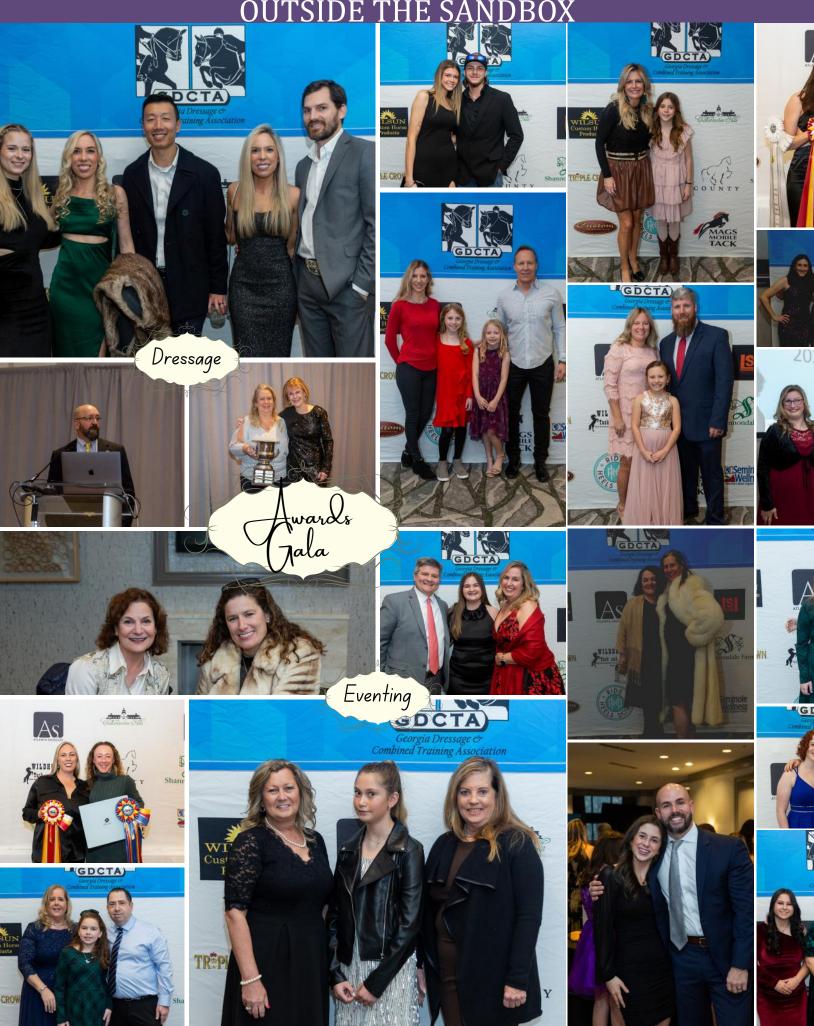
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GDCTA Horse of the Month - Athena



About MC Lady Kid Dixon, "Athena"

This beautiful, young, 8 yo Quarter Horse/Paint mare is my heart horse. She was born in my barn in the wee hours of the morning on April 15, 2015. She was so tiny and so friendly the moment we met. Athena is a true work of art! Her name comes from her lady warrior mother and she is a goddess.

2023 was amazing. Athena and I won eighth place in Intro Dressage and ninth place in combined training within the Amoeba division. This is our official first year as GDCTA members! We did it!!! Together!!!

~ Mary Catherine Chewning

Personality – In addition to her gorgeous color and markings she, like her mother, is fast, headstrong, and loves to jump! But like her sire, she is kind, willing, and very loving.

Antics – Her two favorite antics are to run away from me right before our lesson when she is tired she will get mad and start stomping her foot when she's walking.

Favorite Treat- Little alfalfa cubes

To show you just how special she is, the picture at the right was taken during the summer of 2023. She was at a full gallop around our pasture. She was headed straight for me and I had the camera ready. She swerved at the last moment. The resulting photograph told the story. Her eye was filled with love and playfulness.

(Photo above: 1st place at the local Coosa Valley Fair, Rome, Ga. Oct. 2023)



Fine Art Session









Why do people ride Horses? Why do people choose to teach it?

by Claire Foster, HoyaVision TV

originally published online as a part of her broadcasting class portfolio last semester at Harrison High School

Foxberry Farm is an equestrian facility in Dallas, Georgia teaching the sport of Eventing which is an English discipline involving 3-phases of riding – dressage, crosscountry jumping and stadium jumping. Becoming a trainer is not a typical career path, but it is an exciting and fulfilling one. In addition, riding is an activity that benefits a person's life and can be enjoyed for a lifetime.



(Caption: Trainer Alison Cochran and her horse Kane)

Alison Cochran is one of the trainers at Foxberry Farm, and she has been a trainer for 32 years. Her favorite aspect of being a trainer is the kids. She says, "I enjoy seeing their growth, seeing their excitement and encouraging them through their failures, and helping them sort of see all that they are." This is a great example of how dedicated these trainers are to their students.

Kim Abernathy, Foxberry Farm owner and trainer, decided she wanted to be a trainer because she never took lessons when she was younger, but was a 'barn rat' always "helping everybody else and ... cleaning stalls." She recalls, "I can remember looking out the stall window watching the coaches, and then as I got older, I thought I'm going to do that one day," and so then I did. Just as Kim watched through that stall window and was inspired to pursue a career with horses, most individuals are influenced by the people around them.

Abernathy has been a trainer for 23 years. She believes that working with horses teaches three essential life skills:

- a good work ethic because horses are a lot of work
- good time management because barn time doesn't go the same as normal time – barn time goes by way fast
- perseverance because things don't always go right

If Foxberry Farm's trainers are the heart of their riding program, then its riders are the lifeblood of the program. Hadley Heller, 15, has been riding for around six years. She says that what she loves about riding is "the competing aspect of it because I'm really competitive and I just like competing with my friends." Like many sports, the competition aspect of Eventing is definitely one of the best parts; it is what makes sports fun. Kintizing Bounds, 14, has nine years of riding experience and believes that riding can benefit a person. She says, "It's definitely kinda therapeutic... it does become a de-stressor for me like lots of the time." Bounds expands on the idea that riding horses can be beneficial to your mental health just like many other sports. Evelyn Dampier, 14, has been riding for about ten years and she explained that she got involved in the sport because her "neighbor actually had toy horses that I became obsessed with and she soon got me into riding."

All of these riders work very hard to balance their own lives with their training and riding commitments. A typical week at the barn for a competing equestrian is a five-day commitment. For most of these riders, this is a passion sport. They have fallen in love with the community it creates, their horses, and the benefits it provides. So, for them, time spent at the barn is the best time because it is filled with joy, connection, and horses.



(Caption: Rider Evelyn Dampier on her horse Bhodi)

DRESSAGE

GDCTA GRANT TRAINING EXPERIENCE

By Ginny Henry and "Glitter Girl"

This year has been a thrilling ride, filled with intense training, emotional moments, love, and gratitude. After a 12-year hiatus from riding, my goal was to simply ride again. Now, as a mother of three, a wife, and the owner of two businesses, my love and passion for riding never faded. Initially, I had no intention of returning to my younger days of competing, traveling, and training. However, on March 11th, 2021, everything changed when I found a mare that reignited my passion for riding and training.

Although I had a lot on my plate, I knew that I had to pursue this passion as it was in my blood. I was unsure how my family would react or how I would handle the financial and mental demands of riding again. However, after discussing my plans with my husband, he was supportive and decided to join me in this journey. With the help of a grant from GDCTA, we took lessons with Jodie Kelly, attended boot camps with Yvonne Barteau, and rode with Anna Marek and Betsy Steiner. The support we received from these individuals and the dressage community has been incredible.



My mare, "Glitter Girl," has been my emotional support and partner, pushing me to set higher goals and achieve them. Our first goal was to obtain our USDF Bronze medal, and we are only two scores away from achieving it. Looking back, I am grateful to GDCTA for giving us the opportunity to improve with the grant's help. Thank you once again to everyone who has supported us along the way, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for me and "Glitter Girl."







DRESSAGE

Turn the Saddle, NOT the Bridle!

By Amelia Newcomb

Have you ever heard the phrase "taking the reins" used to mean taking control of something? Yeah, I bet all the time! It's a pretty common phrase! Well, next time someone says that to you, tell them the whole of the English-speaking world has been working under a misapprehension about the reins!

Sure, reins are important, but they're part of a MUCH bigger equation! If you want to turn correctly and effectively, you've got to turn with the SADDLE, not the bridle! The saddle is the true steering wheel of your horse.

Most people, if they want to turn left, they just pull the

Ride a Geometric Shape to avoid the drift!

- Instead of expecting a pure circle when learning how to turn through the saddle, turn in tiny increments instead.
- Give the aids to turn as above,
- Then ride straight for a few strides.
- Then turn again.
- This will result in a pentagonal or hexagonal shape, but as your horse learns and you get stronger giving the aid, you will be able to ride a circle.

If you've been bridle turning all your life, these exercises will really help improve the quality of your

left rein, but all this does is take the horse's neck to the inside. This throws them off balance and then they swing their body out to correct this. Then the horse's whole body just falls to the outside.

Sure, you'll get some sort of a turn, but your horse's risk of tripping will be pretty high, and the quality of the turn will be



turns! Have a look at the video and see the difference in Mercurio when we do each turn:

very low. In fact, turn would be a loose term for what really would just be an extended drift! Turning the saddle is the way to avoid this dreaded drift action!

Here's how to "Turn the Saddle" to turn left.

- 1. Have contact with your horse
- 2. Push in with outside upper right thigh.
- 3. Place outside lower leg a little back.
- 4. Push the saddle around the turn

If your horse is a dedicated drifter from years of bridle turning, don't worry, they'll learn! But try this exercise to help teach them the new way of turning gradually.

https://youtu.be/l1uu2P5lhyg

Let me know in the comments of the video if the exercises help you and keep an eye on your inbox for the final email in my welcome series that has THE best exercise for suppling your horse and getting them on the bit!

Happy Riding!

EVENTING

GDCTA Training Grant Provides for In-Depth and Transforming Instruction

By Crockett Miller

applied for the GDCTA Training Grant knowing I vanted to aim for a working student position omewhere over the summer where I'd be able to take oth of my horses, Mr Panda and Swell Continental, vith me. Thankfully, Mary Bess Davis had room for me ind my two horses, and I was very lucky to have eceived the funds from the Training Grant to afford pending two months getting amazing, one-on-one help rom Mary Bess. On top of lessons, I learned so much rom being able to work in the barn, such as helping vith vet and farrier visits, and helping clients look at a ales horse.

After the first few weeks of taking jump and flat lessons vith Mary Bess, it was clear I needed to completely einvent how I was going about jumping both of my lorses. This meant rewiring my brain and breaking yearold habits that were ok for the level I was competing, out not any higher. Having had Mr Panda for six years ind since he was four years old meant that we had hared habits that we needed to overcome. For forever, had been under the impression that Panda would ump a course best if I let him have his head, but with areful work under Mary Bess, I learned I was letting im go to the fences with a hollowed frame and herefore any impulsion we created was turning into peed. Swell Continental needed to be put into a collected frame to keep from spooking at the fences, out Mary Bess taught me that I was taking too much rom his canter by collecting him without adding leg. So vith my two very different geldings, I learned to change he way I was riding them over fences by creating a ounder, more energetic canter on Panda, and being confident enough to put my leg on when coming to a ence on Swell Continental.

Aside from improving and retraining my aids, Mary Bess relped me with my position drastically as well. I had rever realized how unstable my lower leg was on the landing off a fence or that I was a bit behind the vertical on the flat. Not only did I learn to keep my lower leg still and to sit up on the vertical, but I learned what these improvements did for my riding and my horses' ways of going. Landing with my calf still in contact with the horse's side allowed for me to ask for them to soften as I landed and with the subtleness of my leg already being there rather than it swinging back into place during the stride after. The most drastic result I felt from a change in my position was Swell Continental's ability to come round through his entire body once I brought my shoulders directly over my hips.



(Pictured: Mary Bess with me on Swell Continental at the June Stable View Horse Trials almost a month in to my working for her.)

EVENTING

I saw results like this more and more as I spent my time working for and with Mary Bess this past summer, and it was an incredible experience. I am so thankful I was able to afford spending my summer getting such indepth and transforming instruction with both of my horses.





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(Pictured above: Here's another photo of Swell Continental in a jump lesson with Mary Bess.)

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GDCTA BUSINESS GDCTA Board 2024

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 Janie Pride Danielle Perry Julie Shannon

YOUTH MEMBERS TBA

The 2024 Board was seated at the January 15th meeting



Committees 2024

- 1) Nominating 2 Non outgoing 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 & Lacey Halstead
 - c. Barn Raffle Julie Shannon & Katie Patton
- 6) Education
 - a. Chair Julie Shannon
 - b. Clinics Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
 - c. Kudzu Danielle Perry & Lacey Halstead
 - d. L Program Marian Bickers
- 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. Volunteer Coordinator Open
 - e. 50th Anniversary 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 yo

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

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Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association

Regular Meeting

December 18, 2023

President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on December 18, 2023, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Secretary, Ashley Boyd, performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Abigail Kroupa, Joanne Morse, Ashley Boyd, Peter West, Danielle Perry, Liz Malloy, and Carol Tresan were present. Guest Ginny Henry joined us. The minutes of the regular meeting November 13, 2023, were emailed to board members prior to meeting. Abigail motioned to approve the minutes; Danielle seconded the minutes were passed by the board.

Grant Committee (Janie): Ginny Henry was the Adult Amateur Training Grant winner. Ginny reported on her experience with the grant. The grant was so helpful for her travel and taking lessons because she had to travel a minimum of 2 hours for lessons. She is two scores away from getting her Bronze Medal – she has one score in the 80s! She won the musical freestyle for First Level at Regionals. It was great to hear the success she had thanks to the grant money! Janie reported on other success that grant recipients had shared.

Conventions Update:

USDF - Caren, Danielle, and Liz attended, Abigail was sick and unable to attend. The USDF Convention was smaller than usual. It was very informative, and the meeting structure has made it easier for everybody to attend the meetings. The nominations committee is asking for a PM delegate candidate and the deadline is in April. They are working towards getting members to join GMOs as well. The Freestyle Committee will be restructured into the Judges Committee. They are promoting the instructor trainer program. Caren reported on additional updates in the judging programs, grant, awards, youth and handler programs. The Region 3 meeting for 2024 will be in Houston and 2025 in Lexington. They had the introduction of At Large candidates. In regard to the rule changes meeting, if you wonder about the changes go to USDF Rulebook.

USEA - Joanne and Carol attended and it was a smaller convention as well. It was a different structure this year as well. Joanne and Carol reported on the discussions

on Safety, U21 Program, rule changes, the ECP, Affiliate meeting that talked about ways to get volunteers and track them, nutrition meeting, and Young Riders. Next year's meeting is in Seattle.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Communication (Joanne): Nothing to report
- Show Committee (Julie): Nothing to report
- Finance (Peter): Nothing to report
- Youth Program (Joanne): Finishing up the Letterman jacket program action list
- Awards (Janie): Nothing to report
- Education (Julie): a UGA vet offered to speak at the beginning of the Gala.

• Gala (Caren): Gala - We need to have the Gala make a profit this year. We are currently low on baskets and auction items and need everybody to work on donations. 369 ribbons will be given out this year. Ticket sales are going very well with only 170 tickets left. Caren will email the list of jobs for the event.

• Nominating: Nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

• Email Blasts – (Caren): Gala

NEW BUSINESS

• Committee list will be emailed out for people to sign up for committees for 2024

Joanne made a motion to adjourn. Liz seconded. Motion passed.

Next meeting is the budget meeting on January 15, 2024, on Zoom at 7 pm



GDCTA.WILDAPRICOT.ORG/EVENT-5458213

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

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.

<u>*******</u>***

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.

SOOD KARMA

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

For Information & To Sign Up

LIZ FASO MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR SPONSORED BY WILSUN CUSTOM HORSE PRODUCTS

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

GDCTA EVENT CALENDAR (GDCTA Events are in RED)

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

GDCTA Events

Dressage

Mar 15-16 USDF L Program Part 2	Ocala, FL	Marian Bickers	mcbjumper@gmail.com
 Apr 13-14 Spring Fling Schooling Show Jun 10-13 	Alpharetta, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
GDCTA & Area 3 YR Eventing Summer camp	Fairburn, GA	Joanne Morse	Joannemorse1@yahoo.com
• Aug 31-Sept 1 End of Summer Finals Schooling Show	Conyers, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
GDCTA USEF/USDF HOR	SE SHOWS		
 May 11-12 Greater Atlanta Dressage Southern I & II 	Conyers, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
 Aug 10-11 Dog Days of Summer Dressage 	Alpharetta, GA	Caren Caverly	<u>ccaverly@comcast.net</u>
Oct 5-6 2025 Show Season Atlanta National Fall	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

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2024 Show / A	Award Season		
GDCTA	AYDC	Big Cheese HT, CT & Dressage Show Series	Chattahoochee Hills Eventing at Bouckaert Farm
April 13-14 : Spring Fling Wills Park, Alpharetta, GA	GIHP Conyers, GA	Ashland Farm 1541 Highway 138	9445 Browns Lake Road Fairburn, GA
Aug 31-Sep 1: End of Summer Finals GIHP, Conyers, GA	Aug 31-Sep 1: March 16 End of Summer Finals May 18	Walnut Grove GA	April 6 May 4 June 8
The Lisa Seger Insurance AA Medal class is offered on all dates. (Training Level, Test 3)	June 15 July 20 August 17 September 7 September 28		August 10 September 7
Caren Caverly ccaverly@comcast.net 770-713-4025 GDCTA.org	Elizabeth Molloy missliz@taramiaridingschool.com 770-634-4089 taramiaridingschool.com	Caroline Templeton bigcheeseeventing@gmail.com 706-207-6055 bigcheeseeventing.com	info@chatthillseventing.com 770-892-2117 chatthillseventing.com

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2024 Calendar

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29	30	31	1				

Holidays and common observances (United States)

1 Jan.	New Year's Day	27 May	Memorial Day
15 Jan.	Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.	19 June	Juneteenth
19 Feb.	Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day)	4 July	Independence Day
31 Mar.	Easter	2 Sept.	Labor Day

14 Oct.	Columbus Day
11 Nov.	Veterans Day
28 Nov.	Thanksgiving Day
25 Dec.	Christmas