

November 2024

# Collected Remarks



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*Georgia Dressage & Combined Training Association*

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**GMO**

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# OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX



## *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 happy place, please contact Caren Caverly ([ccaverly@comcast.net](mailto:ccaverly@comcast.net)).*

*Also seeking a Sponsorship Coordinator. Ask Caren for details!  
[ccaverly@comcast.net](mailto:ccaverly@comcast.net) / 770-713-4025*

# OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

*Dear Members:*

It's already November and the year is winding down to its end. I can't believe how fast 2024 has sped by! I have absolutely no idea how time works. The calendar says it's mid-November, but my brain hasn't caught up – time itself always seems to have slipped through my fingers. I blame the unseasonably warm weather. 🍂🍁🍂

The Board of Directors election is over, and we have our winner. Congratulations and welcome to the Board!

## Officers

**President** - Caren Caverly

**VP of Dressage** - Lindsey Burns

**VP of Eventing** - Joanne Morse

**Treasurer** - Peter West

**Recording Secretary** - Ashley Boyd

**Corresponding Secretary** - Carol Tresan

## At Large Candidates

Annmarie Stockinger

Noel Muehlbauer

Danielle Perry

It is now Gala season! Year-end Award Winner announcement emails will go out in December. Gala tickets will go on sale on or about December 15<sup>th</sup>.

In light of our current economic challenges (i.e., GDCTA has not hosted the Region 3 dressage championship show in two years), we are reaching out to our supportive community for some assistance. The Awards Program is GDCTA's biggest program – both in participation and expense. We love hosting the Awards Gala to honor our members and their achievements! However, times have been lean for us. The silent auction and barn basket raffle help to fund the year-end awards, but unfortunately, they do not cover everything. In order to keep everything at the level we've been offering, we are reaching out for ribbon sponsorship for our upcoming year-end awards.

These awards are a time-honored tradition, celebrating the hard work and achievements of our members. By sponsoring ribbons or an award, you'll not only help us maintain this cherished event but also support the continued growth and development of our equestrian community.

Your contribution, no matter the size, will make a significant impact. Together, we can ensure that our riders receive the recognition they deserve for their dedication and passion!

## Ribbon Sponsorship

\$250

## Award Sponsorship

Schooling Show: \$35, Recognized: \$50

You can set up your sponsorship TODAY by visiting the event page <https://gdcta.org/event-5587099>

Would you like to help with the Awards Gala in another way? There are plenty of things to do: There's set up (early) and clean up (late); securing donations for the Silent Auction, Barn Basket Raffle, and Door Prizes; handing out the door prizes; helping to manage the silent auction item cash out / pick up, etc. Let me know if you want to be involved!

Thank you for supporting GDCTA. Oh, yeah, it's also time to renew! <https://gdcta.org/join-us>

*Caren*

Caren Caverly  
President, GDCTA  
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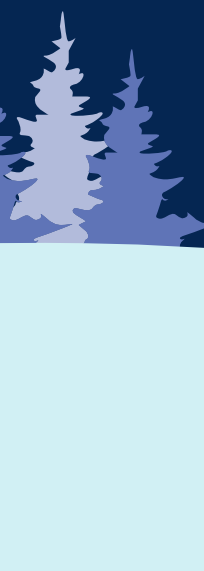
It's beginning

TO LOOK A LOT LIKE....

*Christmas!*

**Funny Horse Pix**

**Victoria Burnette**



## SAVE *the* DATE



GDCTA AWARDS GALA  
FEBRUARY 1, 2025

**Autumn brings with it the feeling that we're off to the races.** The lazy, slow days of summer are behind us and now it's back to managing all the moving pieces — we've got two great ways to keep your days on track: education and competition. With our clinics and dressage shows, we've got you covered for both! But there's a third component — recognition for your accomplishments. Our year-end awards motivate & inspire our members to strive for their best outcomes.

The GDCTA Awards Gala is the night we honor our members' competitive spirits with year-end and a variety of special awards. Details and winner announcements will be coming, but we are already putting things together to make it an extra special event for you, our members.

## **Would you consider making a donation to the GDCTA Awards Gala silent auction?**

The Awards Gala is the biggest fundraiser for GDCTA with a portion of the proceeds going to UGA Vet School and the rest used to fund all the organization's events and activities for the coming year or longer if the auction is super successful. If you would like to make a financial donation, we welcome those too! Go to the website to donate here: <https://gdcta.org/Donate>



# OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

## Event Details:

- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Time:** Doors open at 5:00 PM
- **Location:** Atlanta Marriott Alpharetta, Alpharetta, GA

GDCTA is seeking product donations for the silent auction, door prizes, and party favors (sample-sized items). Donations need not be horse related. All contributions are welcome – both products that interest your fellow equine enthusiasts for the horse or personally. Donations need not be horse related. If you make your donation early, we have more time to publicize your donation and ensure that your contribution will appear in the Awards Gala Program.

All contributions are welcome – both products that interest your fellow equine enthusiast for the horse, as well as personally. Some popular items include:

- Themed Gift Baskets/Muck Buckets
- Tack and Services
- Spa Treatments
- Books
- Vacation Getaways, Hotel and Time-Share Stays
- Jewelry
- Tickets to Social, Cultural or Athletic Events
- Gift Certificates to National Restaurants or Stores
- Exclusive and unique items are always a favorite!

Feel free to be creative! Fill a basket or muck bucket with goodies made by local crafters or gourmet food and wine. Arrange a gift basket with movies filmed in your region, complete with popcorn. Donate a camping trip, behind-the-scenes tour, tickets to a sporting event, white water rafting, etc. Arrange a round of golf with a local celebrity. Remember that presentation is key! In order to attract bidders, be creative and explicit with the description and display of your item and take a photo before you send it.

**Please make your donation by January 20th** so we can include it in our advertising and place it in the auction, as appropriate. Include a donation form on the event link <https://gdcta.org/event-5587099> with your items, or request one at [admin@gdcta.org](mailto:admin@gdcta.org).

All silent auction bidding will be done online here <https://gdcta.cbo.io>. We'll have it set up to view in December.

Can't wait to see what is in the auction this year! Your donations are always so creative and fun or useful and needed. Thank you!

## The Gala Committee

**CHAIR** Caren Caverly, [ccaverly@comcast.net](mailto:ccaverly@comcast.net)

## *“Grant” Paul Belasik Dressage Clinic*

*By Molly Boggs*

This clinic was held in August of 2024. My mare Sylvie and I are still new to each other. I got her in December; she was a 10yr hunter/jumper pony. I saw a video of her and thought she would like dressage. I had just retired my gelding due to medical reasons. It's been a hard road to say the least with Sylvie. Although she is such a worker bee, we could barely canter the first few months because she was so unbalanced and every time I would try to make contact and get her on the bit she would panic and dart off my leg like a pistol. Canter was scary at first because she would just run. No rhyme or reason, just go fast, nose out and very unbalanced. That's all she knew, I guess. But we have come a long way and we are growing every day as a team! I just love that little horse so much.

What a weekend filled with learning, fun, horses and riding! I was the first rider at 8:30am on Saturday so my mare got to spend the night that Friday at Unlimited Dressage in Milton where the clinic was held.

I woke up Saturday morning excited but nervous. I have ridden in a Paul clinic before. So, I know while he is brutally honest, I also know that he wants the best for the horse and rider in the long run so he is firm while teaching. Paul's training is based on hardcore classical dressage and it shows in all his horses and riders.

I got to the barn early and helped my coach Sarah set up the ring for the day. Then I got my mare 'Sylvie' out of her stall and started to tack up with some butterflies in my stomach. Sylvie seemed

much calmer and relaxed than me. I got on and headed to the ring.

I gave Paul a brief summary of what Sylvie and I have been working on lately then we immediately got started. Right away I went to posting trot in our warm-up and Paul said, "Molly, have you been sitting your trot – you knew I was coming!" as he laughed. So, sitting trot the rest of the lesson(s) it is!

Sylvie was a little 'spooky' in the corners which can be normal for her. Paul helped me settle her in by getting into trot/walk transitions. In the downward transitions, Sylvie tends to lift her head to not stay on the bit. Although we struggled with that, we did have a few decent transitions and that exercise got her focused.

We went into some lateral work, which we have started to work on at home. We did some shoulder-in and leg yield to the right and left. I am lucky to have a horse where this comes easily and that she enjoys! Not that it is easy, but it helps.

Next was canter transitions. We have the same issue in the downward as we do in the upward where Sylvie tends to go into the canter braced and head upward not on the bit. Like the downward, we had a few 'ok' transitions.

As we ended the lesson, he asked what bit I am using. I told him it is a type of happy mouth and he suggested I change it to D-Ring snaffle.

The next day I rode later in the day. Actually, I was after a really nice high-level horse – which is always hard to follow. With Paul's suggestion from the



# OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

previous day, I had changed Sylvie's bit to a D-ring lozenge snaffle.

We started with the trot/walk transitions again. Sylvie was resistant at first, but then suddenly like a different horse. She seemed much happier and pleasant after a few transitions. Paul then asked us to do trot/halt transitions. I felt myself even smile a few times as we did our downward transitions. I was lighter with my hand aids. Paul did ask what I was doing differently because it was such a difference from the day before.

When we worked on the canter transition and that same supple feeling flowed into the canter transitions. Even the right lead felt better than the day before (which we struggle with)! We even cantered straight down the long side without darting in and out of the corners, which is huge for us. Now don't get me wrong, we definitely had some low moments (especially transitions and keeping the correct right lead canter) but that is what I am here for – to learn. Paul helped me sit and bring Sylvie's shoulders up at the canter to help her use her haunches more, which felt spectacular when we got it those few canter steps. What a difference I felt!

We did some more lateral work and dabbled in the extension at the trot. Now that was a ton of fun! I felt what it is to actually lengthen without that 'scrambling' feeling and keeping it. Paul is very careful with trot lengthens. He said there are a certain number of extended trots in each horse and we have to remember that when schooling at home and competing.

Paul's teaching is strict. He makes you work really hard on position because that helps the horse stay balanced. I left the weekend like a sponge full of ways to be a better for Sylvie. What a great experience I had that weekend. Is it too much to say my second ride was magical? I have so much more to bring to the table (well, saddle) to better

my relationship with Sylvie. Thank you so much for this grant and opportunity!!



## Join us! Renew now: <https://gdcta.org/join-us>

GDCTA membership year is December 1st through November 30th each year.

GDCTA membership gets you Group Member membership in USDF as well!



**USDF**

**UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™**

**Group Membership (GM)**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

USDF has over 100 affiliated dressage clubs, or Group Member Organizations (GMOs), across the United States and Canada. These clubs submit their membership rosters to the USDF office. By joining a GMO, you automatically become a dues-paying group member of USDF. A complete listing of GMOs in your area can be found on the [USDF website](#).

### **DISCOUNTS:**

- [USDF Store](#) – 10% discount
- Discounted rate at USDF events
- Discounts with [USDF Member Perks Partners](#)

*Visit the Member Perks page of the USDF website for detailed information and discount codes (must be logged in to view discount codes)*

### **RESOURCES:**

- Printed *USDF Connection* magazine
- Full access to USDF's digital publications, including *USDF Connection*
- *USDF Member Guide*
- Access to USDF's education resources and online learning opportunities
- Full access to [USDFscores.com](#), the official USDF source for the most accurate and complete dressage scores

### **ELIGIBLE TO:**

- Compete at USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions without paying the USDF non-member fee
- Participate in the [GMO Volunteer Incentive Program](#)
- Participate in the [USDF Rider Award Program](#)
- Earn [USDF University education credit](#) for participating in accredited educational opportunities
- Submit content for possible publication on *YourDressage.org*

### **IMPORTANT GM INFORMATION**

- The USDF membership year is December 1 through November 30.
- USDF GM is issued directly through a GMO, not by joining USDF directly.
- USDF Participating Membership is required for most year-end award and championship programs.
- Only individuals that renew their USDF Participating Membership, Business Membership, or Group Membership before December 31 will receive the yearbook issue of *USDF Connection*.
- For information on rider/handler/owner/horse eligibility for specific programs, please visit the [USDF website](#) or the online [USDF Member Guide](#).



## *Trotting Along the New Gray Sand Road*

By RU Marley (via ChatGPT)

On the new gray sand road, I trot with ease,  
Where whispers of the wind weave through the  
trees.

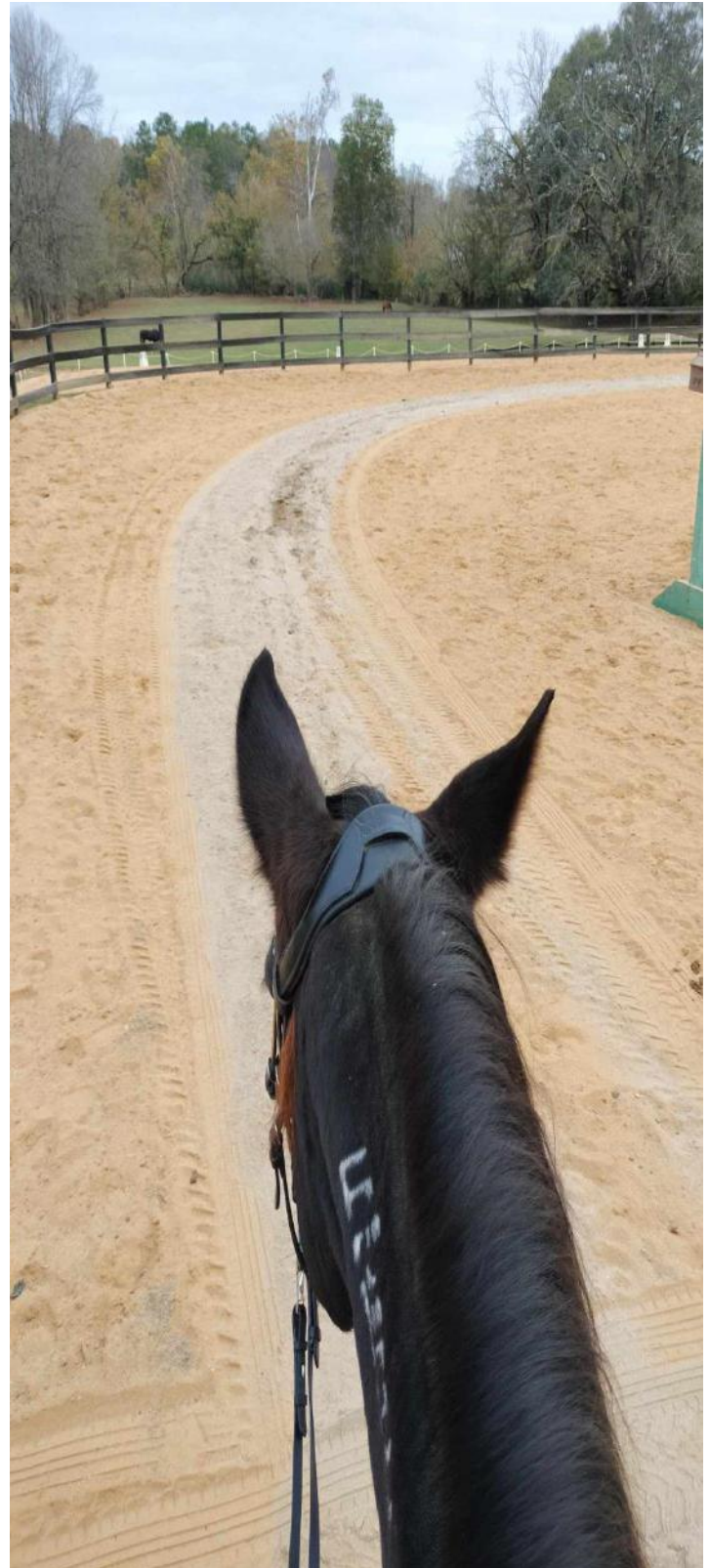
Each step a gentle echo, soft and light,  
Under the vast expanse of morning bright.

The grains like memories, cool beneath my feet,  
A path freshly laid, where sky and earth meet.  
Beneath a canvas of clouds drifting slow,  
I find my rhythm, letting my spirit flow.

Sunlight dances on the surface, a shimmering hue,  
Every trotting heartbeat feels vibrant and true.  
The world stretches wide, inviting and bold,  
With stories unfolding, waiting to be told.

Birdsong fills the air, a melodic embrace,  
Nature's own symphony, keeping perfect pace.  
I breathe in the freshness, the scent of the day,  
As the new gray sand road leads me on my way.

So here I wander, with dreams in tow,  
Embracing each moment, wherever I go.  
For in the trotting, the journey unfolds,  
On this new gray sand road, my heart's never cold.



# GAIG/USDF REGION 3 DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

OCTOBER 3-5, 2025

GDC TA.org

## ENTERTAINMENT

- THURSDAY - WINE & CHEESE
- FRIDAY - TWILIGHT VENDOR WALK
- SATURDAY - DINNER BUFFET & ENTERTAINMENT

## CONTACT

Caren Caverly [admin@gdcta.org](mailto:admin@gdcta.org)





# Renvers Tips for Beginners

For beginners, learning renvers can seem challenging at first, but breaking it down into manageable steps will make the process smoother for both horse and rider. Here are some essential tips for beginners:

## 1. Master Shoulder-In First

- Before attempting renvers, make sure you and your horse are comfortable with **shoulder-in**. Since renvers is essentially shoulder-in in reverse, this foundational movement will help both of you understand the positioning and aids required.
- Practice shoulder-in on both reins to ensure your horse is supple and balanced in both directions.

## 2. Start on the Long Side

- Introduce renvers on the long side of the arena where there's a clear track to follow. This helps with straightness and prevents the horse from drifting.
- Begin by asking for just a few strides of renvers, focusing on the correct bend and positioning. Gradually increase the number of strides as you and your horse become more comfortable.

## 3. Focus on a Subtle Bend

- Don't over-bend the horse in renvers. It's tempting to ask for a deep bend in the neck, but the bend should primarily be through the horse's body, with just a slight curve in the neck.

- A correct bend allows the horse to stay balanced without losing forward momentum.

## 4. Use Simple Transitions

- Incorporate transitions into your renvers practice to help keep the horse engaged and attentive. For example, ride into the renvers from a walk or slow trot, then transition back to a straight line.
- This allows you to maintain control and helps the horse understand the difference between straight and lateral work.

## 5. Lighten the Aids

- Renvers, like all lateral work, requires light and subtle aids. Use your **outside leg** to create the bend, but don't overuse your inside rein. The inside rein should be soft, guiding the horse's shoulders in while your outside rein maintains control of the bend.
- Remember that renvers should feel like a natural progression from your aids, not something forced.

## 6. Stay Relaxed in the Saddle

- Your own relaxation is key to success in renvers. Tension in your body will translate to the horse, causing stiffness or resistance.
- Focus on keeping your **hips and seat relaxed and following the movement**. Maintain steady contact through your seat bones and avoid gripping with your legs.

## 7. Ride a Shallow Renvers First

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- For beginners, a shallow renvers (where the angle of the horse's shoulders and haunches is slight) is often easier to maintain. Start with a small amount of shoulder displacement and a soft bend until you feel confident, then gradually ask for more as your horse becomes more balanced.

## 8. Use Visualization

- Visualize the movement as you prepare. Picture how the horse's shoulders should come off the track while the haunches stay on the line.
- Keep in mind that renvers is a mirror of shoulder-in; this mental picture can help you stay organized during the movement.

## 9. Get Feedback from a Trainer

- When you're learning a new movement like renvers, having a trainer or experienced eye on the ground is invaluable. They can help you spot subtle mistakes, such as over-bending or improper alignment, and correct them in real-time.
- If you can't work with a trainer, consider using mirrors in the arena to check your positioning.

## 10. Patience and Consistency

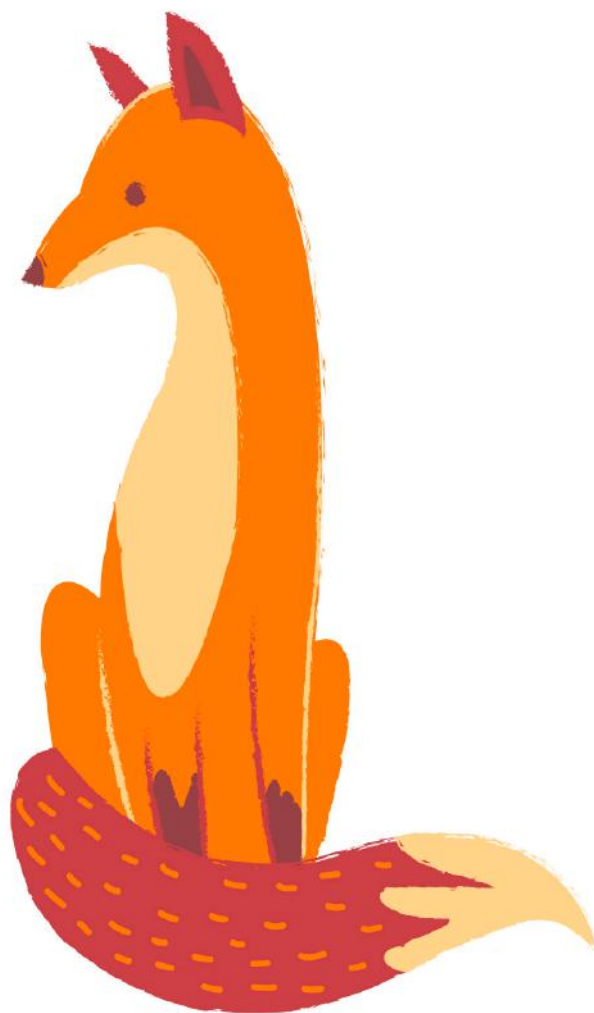
- Like any new skill, mastering renvers takes time and consistent practice. Don't get frustrated if it doesn't come easily at first.
- Start with short sessions to avoid overwhelming yourself or the horse, and gradually increase the length and difficulty as you both improve.

## Beginner Exercise: Walk to Renvers

- Begin by riding a walk on the long side of the arena.

- Ask for a slight **shoulder-in** by using your inside leg at the girth to bend the horse around it.
- Transition smoothly to **renvers** by moving the shoulders toward the inside while keeping the horse's haunches on the rail. Use your **outside leg behind the girth** to maintain the bend.
- Practice transitioning between **straight, shoulder-in, and renvers** a few times down the long side at the walk before trying at a trot.

Starting with these tips and exercises will give you the foundation to progress confidently toward mastering renvers and incorporating it into your training to improve straightness.



## *An Introduction to Eventing*

Eventing is a sport that combines dressage, cross-country, and jumping, and is often a good fit for riders who like variety and outdoor riding.

### **What are the eventing disciplines?**

If you're going to compete at events, you will need to practice and master the three disciplines that make up each competition: dressage, showjumping, and cross-country. To help you get started, here's an overview of each of these phases below.

### **Dressage**

In the dressage phase of an event, you will need to perform a sequence of movements on your horse within an enclosed arena. At lower levels, these will be basic moves, such as walking, trotting, and cantering, while elite levels require actions like piaffe, passage, tempi changes, and canter pirouettes.

As each movement is completed, a panel of judges will award a score out of ten depending on how well it was performed. They are looking for you and your horse to show a high degree of balance, rhythm, suppleness, and co-operation.

Dressage is generally viewed as the cornerstone of equestrian sport. This is because the all the skills and movements are essential for mastering showjumping and cross-country, as is the high degree of co-operation you and your horse will develop.

For a more in-depth look at what will be required when competing in dressage, be sure to read our beginner's guide to dressage.

### **Showjumping**

When competing in the showjumping section of an event, you and your horse will have to jump over a series of fences without knocking them down and within a time limit. The course you have to tackle is arranged around an arena, where each jump needs to be cleared in a certain order.

Your ride around the course will be overseen by one or more judges, who will assign any penalties to you for fence knockdowns, disobedience from your horse, falling off the horse, or if you go over the time limit. The aim is to ride a clear round, with no penalties, but any you do pick up will be applied to your time when calculating an overall score.

This discipline requires teamwork between you and your horse. It will be a true test of your balance, poise, and horsemanship, as well as being an examination of your horse's power, scope, athleticism speed, and carefulness. As you improve, you will be able to tackle higher and more complex fences.

You will need to demonstrate the control learned in dressage training while developing your horse's jumping skills, which will also help you in the cross-country phase of the competition.

To find out more about this discipline, it's worth reading our beginner's guide to showjumping.

### **Cross-country**

In the cross-country phase of the event, you and your horse will need to complete a ride around a longer course, complete with a variety of jumps and other obstacles. This discipline is designed to simulate countryside riding and is primarily a test of your and your horse's endurance. Your horse will need to be fit enough to maintain the pace, and you must be able to stay focused for a long course.

The cross-country course must be completed within a time window that is neither too slow, where you have not maintained the pace, nor too fast, where you have dangerously overworked your horse. A time on either side will result in a penalty. There are also jumping penalties if your horse refuses, does not complete, or circles an obstacle.

As you progress through the levels of eventing, the cross-country course you will face will become more challenging. Not only will the course get



# EVENTING

longer and the obstacles more difficult, but the pace you're expected to match will become more demanding. This will require you to build your horse's conditioning and jumping ability, as well as improving your own technical riding and pacing skills.

Want to know more about this phase of eventing? Be sure to read our beginner's guide to cross-country riding for detailed advice on getting started.

Here are some tips for beginners getting into eventing:

## Start with dressage

Typically, eventing training starts with dressage, as this discipline helps to develop the rider's control and mastery of the basics as well as improving cooperation with the horse. It's also the easiest of the phases to practice, as no specialist equipment is necessary at the basic level. Dressage helps riders develop control and cooperation with their horse. You'll learn to walk, trot, and canter, and shift between each gait.

## Find a coach

A coach can help you improve your position, balance, and communication with your horse. You can start with weekly lessons but try not to leave it longer than that.

## Practice regularly

Practice as often as you can but be careful not to overwork your horse. You can also try hacking or riding out away from the arena to change the scenery.

## Watch the experts

You can learn from the experts by watching them and reading your state eventing handbook.

## Get familiar with the rules

You can familiarize yourself with the USEA rulebook online at [www.useventing.com](http://www.useventing.com).

## Be prepared for the elements

Eventing can involve getting cold, wet, or dirty, so be prepared for that.

## Embrace the challenge

Eventing can be intense and exhausting, so be ready to bounce back after a rough day.



# 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. 50<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:designonpenny@yahoo.com) and [webmaster@gdcta.org](mailto: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*

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## Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association

Regular Meeting  
August 19, 2024

President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on August 19, 2024, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Secretary Ashley Boyd performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Abigail Kroupa, Peter West, Joanne Morse, Ashley Boyd, Lindsey Burns, Julie Shannon, Carol Tresan, Liz Molloy, and Janie Pride were present. Two guests were present Alice Burley and Virginia Woodcock. The minutes of the regular meeting July 15, 2024, were emailed to board members prior to meeting. Liz made a motion to accept the July minutes and Joanne seconded. Minutes were voted on and approved by the board.

Two youth members Alice Burley and Virginia Woodcock came on to share about getting the Gold Medal at Championships and to talk about what it meant for them to have a Grant from the GDCTA. They both shared that travel was expensive and that they were so appreciative. Virginia also won the individual and freestyle gold medals. She shared about being a member since she was 9 years old and how she won her first big award with us, and it was the same level of excitement to win gold. Caren shared that both volunteer at our shows and are involved at multiple levels with the GDCTA. Alexis Troutman came on later and shared how much the travel grant helped her, especially because she had a flat tire on the way back. She shared that the experience was amazing and that the atmosphere was great. The team building and team camaraderie really made it special. Caren shared that Alexis and her mother are also regular volunteers for the GDCTA.

**Treasurer's Report** – (Peter): July had a \$1,000 loss. Better than a year ago. Joanne asked where we are as a club. Financially we are 30k in the hole and 18k of it is from previous years. Peter shared that every show needs to make a profit to build our funds

back up. The funds need to come in before the check is cut.

**VP Dressage Report** – (Abigail): Ed Abney clinic is looking like a success as she has a waitlist that she could likely fill a second day. JJ has not given dates yet for Nov but says she can do it.

**VP Combined Training** – (Joanne): Gearing up for AECs so no clinics currently planned. Sarah is still open to rescheduling the clinic they needed to postpone. Championship shoutouts will be worked out with June. Working on article for the camp recap.

**Membership Report** – (Mary Lou): Have not gotten the report yet.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communication** (Joanne): June just did the August newsletter and the next one will be published on Sept 10th.
- **Show Committee** (Julie): Dog Days of Summer was a huge success the show had over 100 entries. The table decorations for the contest were amazing! We are hoping we can do it again at Regionals next year. Julie said that she thought that the success of Dog Days in the heat of summer was a good indication of success at Wills Park in the future. Two weekends from now is the Summer Finals. Entries are looking good.
- **Finance** (Peter): Nothing further to share.
- **Youth Program** (Joanne): Dressage4Kids is looking good. Lots of kids have signed up already and are bringing on a second instructor. Kids even coming from the Cayman Islands.
- **Awards** (Janie): Joanne has been working on getting letterman stuff uploaded to the website. She is working on getting cost for everything. It is time for this program to start breaking even. She recommends charging what the cost is for the jackets. Joanne will email the numbers for the jackets as soon as she gets them. Ashley motioned that the Letterman Jackets should be sold at cost and Julie seconded. The Board voted to pass the motion.
- **Education** (Julie): nothing to report



- **Gala** (Caren): Need people to start working now to get silent auction items. Caren will send out positions, so everybody knows what their roles are. The Gala needs to break even as well. The price has increased as of Feb last year. It will now be \$85. The date is Feb 1, 2025.

- **Nominating:** Working on getting a few more bios. Right now, we have President- Caren, VP of dressage- Lindsey, VP- Joanne, Recording Secretary- Ashley, Corresponding Secretary- Carol, Peter- Treasurer. Board we have Julie, Lacey, and Daniel rolling off the board. Daniel is rerunning and Lacey might be. Julie is not running again. Lindsey's position will be open as she is stepping into VP. Abbey will run for Board position. Working on a few more people to run to be on board.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Email Blasts** – (Caren): Gala

## NEW BUSINESS

- New members for September – (Abi)
- Dec 4-7 dressage convention and Dec eventing convention attendees were identified.

Janie motioned to adjourn, and Lindsey seconded. The board voted to adjourn.

Next meeting is the budget meeting on September 16, 2024, on Zoom at 7 pm



## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

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

[webmaster@gdcta.org](mailto:webmaster@gdcta.org)

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

[GDCTA.org/advertise](https://GDCTA.org/advertise)

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

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

## ORGANIZE A GDCTA-RECOGNIZED SCHOOLING SHOW

If you are organizing a schooling show and wish to have it GDCTA Recognized (so riders can use the scores towards our year-end awards), submit the Recognition form. Shows won't be added to our calendars until the Recognition form is received.

Please review the other information and specifications/guidelines we have provided. For specific questions regarding recognition procedures, email Carol Tresan at [Happy\\_horses@hotmail.com](mailto:Happy_horses@hotmail.com)

Recognition details:

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

## Are You Thinking About Taking Your Dressage Or Eventing Game Off The Farm & Heading to a Show?

There's no doubt about it—watching horse competitions can and will leave you in awe. At its highest competitive level, eventing is recognized as one of the three Olympic equestrian disciplines alongside both dressage and jumping. In dressage the precision and harmony of between the rider and horse is almost always flawless, and much like a horse dancing, fluidly going through the movements. However, as an equestrian knows, dressage is not an easy feat, and it takes years of careful training. Eventing offers the additional thrills and chills of jumping in both cross country and stadium.

Are you thinking about taking your dressage or eventing game off the farm and heading to a show? Showing is the next logical step if you've been riding for a while. Showing offers a method to measure your progress and celebrate how far you and your horse have come. Although competition might seem intimidating, it doesn't have to be! All it takes is a little preparation.

Schooling shows offer several advantages for riders and horses. Here are some key benefits:

- **Skill Development and Practice:** Schooling shows provide a **lower-pressure environment** for riders and horses to gain experience and practice their skills. Unlike official competitions, there's less strict adherence to rules, allowing participants to focus on improving their performance.
- **Test Ride Different Facilities:** These shows allow riders to "test ride" different facilities. It's an opportunity to explore various venues and decide which ones suit you and your horse best before committing to recognized shows or more significant events.
- **Cost-Effective:** Schooling shows are usually more frequent and smaller in scale, catering to local communities. They offer an **affordable alternative** to recognized shows, making them accessible for riders at various levels.
- **Trust and Partnership:** Participating in schooling shows fosters trust and partnership between horse and rider. The consistent exposure to the show environment helps build confidence and strengthens the bond between the two.
- **Artistry and Beauty:** Dressage is an art form, and schooling shows allow riders to showcase the **beauty and artistry** of the discipline. It's a chance to demonstrate the harmonious communication between horse and rider.

In summary, schooling shows serve as valuable steppingstones for riders, providing a supportive platform to refine their skills and enjoy the journey of dressage.

*GDCTA Recognized Schooling Shows have their own calendar on the website.*

<https://gdcta.org/schooling-shows>



# 2024

## JANUARY

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## OCTOBER

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## NOVEMBER

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## DECEMBER

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