

May 2026

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Georgia Dressage & Combined Training Association

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On the Cover - Betsy Kaywood on Starfires Draco at the GDCTA Spring Fling Schooling Show at Wills Park Equestrian Center.

Photo Credit:

Stephanie Finnell of Premium Image |

Background composite/edit: June Brewer

GDCTA is a Group Member Organization of USDF



Check us out

f Instagram YouTube

GDCTA.org

GDCTA HORSE OF THE MONTH



Submit your stories to webmaster@gdcta.org

LIZ FASO MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Join Us As A Volunteer
Volunteering is fun & educational!

GDCTA.org/Volunteer

Sponsored by Bouckaert Farm

GDCTA



Dear Members:

May has a way of inviting us forward. The freshness of spring lingers, but there's also a quiet momentum building—an energy that asks us to stay curious, keep learning, and lean into what's next.

Before we look ahead, I want to pause and celebrate. Congratulations to all who competed at the Greater Atlanta Dressage Southern weekend. Your dedication, preparation, and partnership with your horses were inspiring to witness. Whether you brought home ribbons or simply achieved a personal milestone, your efforts matter—and they move our community forward.

Equally important, thank you to the many volunteers, organizers, and supporters who made the event possible. These moments don't happen without you. From early mornings to the final ride, your time and care create the foundation for everything we do. And to every participant, auditor, and spectator—thank you for showing up and being part of something bigger than any single ride.

As we turn toward summer and beyond, our calendar is full of opportunities to grow, connect, and try something new through education or competition. From educational clinics to schooling shows, each event offers a chance to refine skills, build confidence, and deepen the partnership with our horses. I encourage you to explore the upcoming GDCTA Events and find something that sparks your interest—whether it's in the saddle or on the sidelines.

There's something I'm reminded of this time of year: progress doesn't always come in big, dramatic moments. Often, it's found in the steady days—the ones where you show up, try again, and keep learning. Those are the days that shape us as riders and as a community.

If you can, give yourself permission to linger a little this month. Linger in a lesson learned, a quiet ride, or a conversation at the barn. Not every step needs urgency. Some simply need presence.

It is always a joy to be in community with you. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event.

Caren

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



DRESSAGE

EVER DREAMED OF RIDING IN THE OLYMPICS?



JUNE 14

FULL CIRCLE HORSE PARK

ALL AGES AND LEVELS WELCOME



**FUN, AFFORDABLE, EDUCATIONAL,
OLYMPIC STYLE COMPETITION
WITH MEDALS AND PODIUMS!**



**ALL ATHLETES ARE INVITED TO WALK OUT IN
THE OPENING CEREMONY, WITH A CHANCE
TO WIN THOUSANDS IN SCHOLARSHIPS!**

CHECK OUT ALAGAMES.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION!



The Bedrock of Dressage: Establishing a Correct Seat and Basic Aids

GDCTA Contributor

For any aspiring dressage rider, the journey towards harmony with their equine partner begins with mastering the foundational principles of a correct seat and the effective application of the basic aids. These elements are not merely introductory exercises; they form the bedrock upon which all further training and communication will be built. Without a secure and balanced seat and an understanding of how to communicate clearly with the horse, progress in dressage will be limited and potentially frustrating for both horse and rider.

The **correct seat** is paramount. It acts as the rider's anchor, providing stability and allowing for subtle yet influential communication. This involves several key aspects. **Posture** is the first visual cue of an effective rider. Maintaining a straight line from the ear, through the shoulder and hip, down to the heel ensures balance and allows for optimal energy flow. Slouching or leaning disrupts this alignment, making it difficult for the rider to move with the horse and apply the aids effectively.

Developing **balance** is crucial for an independent seat. This means the rider can maintain their position without relying on the reins for support. Riding without stirrups at the walk and trot (once a degree of security is established) is an invaluable exercise for developing this independent balance, forcing the rider to engage their core and deepen their connection with the horse's movement.

A **supple** seat is equally important. The rider must be relaxed and elastic, able to absorb the horse's motion rather than resisting it. This allows for a more fluid and harmonious partnership. Gentle stretching exercises off the horse can significantly

improve the rider's flexibility and ability to maintain a relaxed posture in the saddle.

Finally, **contact** refers to the consistent, elastic connection between the rider's hand and the horse's mouth through the reins. This connection should originate from the rider's core and seat, not solely from the arms. A correct contact allows the rider to feel the horse's mouth and communicate subtle requests, while the horse can confidently seek the bit.

Complementary to the correct seat are the **basic aids**, the fundamental language through which the rider communicates their intentions to the horse. These include the **leg aids**, which are primarily used to influence the horse's forward movement, lateral movements, and engagement of the hindquarters. Applying pressure at the girth generally encourages the horse to move forward, while pressure slightly behind the girth can aid in lateral work or encourage the hind legs to step further underneath the body. Learning to differentiate between driving (creating forward energy), supporting (maintaining rhythm and straightness), and guiding (influencing direction) leg aids is essential.

Rein aids are used for steering, slowing down, and influencing the horse's frame. Understanding the different types of rein aids – direct rein (used for turning), indirect rein (used for lateral flexion and control of the shoulders), and opening rein (used to encourage a young or green horse to turn) – is crucial. It is vital to emphasize that rein aids should be subtle and never involve pulling or relying on the reins for balance or control.

GDCTA presents

LABOR DAY DRESSAGE CLASSIC I & II

Official Qualifying Competition for
GAIG/USDF Regional Championships

August 29-30

Entry deadline August 17



Enter: Horse Show Office
<http://www.horseshowoffice.com>

Georgia Horse Park, Conyers, GA

Seat aids are perhaps the most nuanced and powerful. Subtle shifts in the rider's weight and engagement of their core can significantly influence the horse's balance, speed, and direction.

Practicing transitions between gaits and within gaits using primarily the seat helps the rider develop this sensitivity and allows for a more harmonious and less reliant use of the reins and legs.

Lastly, **voice aids**, while less emphasized in competition, can be a valuable tool in training, particularly for reinforcing basic commands or offering reassurance.

Mastering these foundational principles is not a quick process but an ongoing journey of refinement. A correct seat and the effective application of the basic aids are not static achievements but rather dynamic skills that evolve with the rider's experience and the horse's training. By focusing on these essentials from the outset, beginner dressage riders lay a solid groundwork for a future of harmonious communication and progressive training.

Celebrate Your Ride: GDCTA Specialty Awards

GDCTA is proud to spotlight two exciting new awards that recognize standout performances across disciplines—because great rides deserve to be celebrated.

Gallop & Glory Award (Eventing & Combined Training)

This award honors riders who achieve a finishing score in the 20s at USEA-recognized horse trials or GDCTA-recognized schooling shows—a true mark of excellence across dressage, cross-country, and stadium. It's a celebration of bold riding, precision, and partnership in all three phases.

Peaches & Perfect Circles Club (Dressage)

Earn a 70% or higher in any test at a USEF/USDF-recognized show or GDCTA schooling show, and you'll join this special club celebrating the artistry and accuracy of dressage. It's all about those smooth, balanced rides that make it look effortless (even when it's not!).

Eligibility (Both Awards):

- Current GDCTA member in good standing
- Must opt into the GDCTA Awards Program before earning scores
- Scores must be earned between October 1 – September 30

Recognition Includes:

- Custom certificate
- Listing in *Collected Remarks*
- Recognition at the GDCTA Awards Gala

Full details and how to participate:

gdcta.org/Awards



GDCTA AND AREA 3 YOUNG RIDER EVENTING CAMP

Our Clinicians

Hannah Sue Burnett. Sara Kozumplik
Michael Pollard Lynn Symansky
Waylon Roberts Ashley Johnson
Sharon White

June 8 - 11, 2026
Stable View
Aiken, SC

GDCTA/Area 3 YR Members: \$1000
Non-members: \$1100
Starter thru Intermediate

Open to all ages!!!

Includes: Stabling, Facility Fees, Camp Shirt
Meals Mon Dinner
Tues/Wed (L & D) Thurs (L)

Auditing Available
One day auditing \$50
Three days \$125
Lunch included

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Monday - Move in day with facility hack, Pizza Party

Tuesday thru Thursday

- Two days of Morning Dressage and Afternoon Show Jumping
- One day of Cross Country Schooling followed by afternoon unmounted educational session.
- Tuesday Evening Sports Psychology with Ashley Johnson
- Wednesday Evening Group Photo in Camp shirt

For more details contact:

Joanne Morse

joannemorse1@yahoo.com



USEA Show Jumping for Eventing Clinic with Chris Barnard

By Joanne Morse

Designing a show jumping course isn't just about placing fences in an arena—it's about creating a thoughtful, flowing experience for both horse and rider. In this clinic with Chris Barnard, we're reminded that great course design blends safety, fairness, and feel, all while keeping the horse's perspective front and center. These notes offer practical insights into what makes a course not only effective, but enjoyable to ride and watch.

- Safety first and producing a fair test for the level
- Make the course pleasing to the eye of the spectator but also make sure that it's appealing to the horse as well.
- Order of responsibility: Horse then Rider then Show then Sponsors then Spectators
- Essential that a course designer has riding experience to be a better course designer
- Equipment – Measuring stick and tape, measuring wheel, drawing materials or computer software,
- Good Course Designers – up to date on rules, design a course that does not have to be changed by the ground jury, participate in international seminars/courses
- A course is only as good as it is suitable
 - Level of the event, size of arena, weather conditions, footing, time schedule
- Track of Course
 - Line is the most important factor while planning
 - Avoid unrhythmical lines that have no logic connection between obstacles
 - Wide turns and a balanced distribution between left and right
- Distances
 - Measure distances and walk the course
 - Know exact distances
 - Have a variation in the distances of a course
 - Use distances on straight and bending lines



GDCTA Training Grants

Invest in your riding. Grow with your community.

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

Am I Eligible?

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

Grant Categories

One \$800 grant is awarded in each category:

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

How to Apply

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

If You Win

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

Ready to take your riding further?

Apply February 1 – June 1 at GDCTA.org | Questions? Contact Janie Pride at janiepride@yahoo.com

- Make sure the distance does not always start with the same type of obstacle
- Combinations
 - Never fence 1 or 2.
 - Higher level can be earlier in the course. Lower should be later in the course.
 - Triple combinations should not change the rhythm and be built in a forward going way.
 - A combination counts as one obstacle but 2 or 3 efforts
 - Usually has a uniform appearance
- Triple Bar
 - Can be used as a first fence on course
 - Never use a triple bar as the out of a related distance
 - Safety cups must be on the middle and the back rail
- Skinny Jumps – 8 ft rails, Prelim and above, only one per course
- Useful tips – Get a track first and then add combinations, fences and distances

This clinic broke down what really goes into building a good show jumping course, with a strong focus on safety, fairness, and riding flow. It covered everything from planning clear, logical tracks to setting distances that make sense for both horse and rider. One of the biggest takeaways was that a great course should feel smooth and rideable while still offering an appropriate challenge—something that comes from experience, attention to detail, and always keeping the horse in mind.

GDCTA

Summer Finals Schooling Show


AUGUST 8-9

Open Show


Team Challenge



Atlanta Saddlery Busiest Trainer
Award

Wills Park
11915 Wills Rd
Alpharetta, GA



RIDING WAREHOUSE



GDCTA.org

GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships & AFND

October 2-4, 2026

Georgia International Horse Park, Conyers, GA

🌟 Sponsor Benefits Breakdown

Why Partner With the GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships & AFND

Sponsoring this event isn't just about visibility — it's about aligning your brand with excellence, athleticism, and a deeply loyal equestrian community. Here's what sponsors gain when they step into the arena with us.

- Performance products
- Premium tack & equipment
- Wellness and veterinary services
- Apparel, accessories, and lifestyle brands
- Barn, farm, and equine-care solutions

🏆 1. Premium Brand Exposure

Your brand is showcased throughout a multi-day championship attended by riders, trainers, owners, families, and equestrian enthusiasts.

- Arena signage & announcements
- Logo placement in programs, schedules, and digital materials
- Recognition during award ceremonies
- Visibility in high-traffic areas including barns, vendor rows, and hospitality spaces

This is targeted exposure to consumers who value quality and invest heavily in their sport.

🎯 2. Direct Access to a High-Value Audience

Dressage competitors and supporters are discerning buyers who prioritize:



Your sponsorship places you directly in front of decision-makers with strong purchasing power.

🎤 3. On-Site Engagement Opportunities

Sponsors enjoy meaningful, face-to-face interactions with attendees through:

- Vendor booths

- Product demos
- Sampling opportunities
- Branded experiences during social events

These touchpoints build trust, loyalty, and long-term customer relationships.

4. Class & Division Sponsorship Recognition

Put your name on the moments that matter most.

- Sponsor a class or division
- Be recognized during awards presentations
- Appear in official results and announcements
- Connect your brand with excellence and achievement

Riders remember — and appreciate — the sponsors who support their success.

5. Digital & Program Advertising

Extend your reach beyond the showgrounds.

- Ads in the official event program (PDF)
- Mentions on event pages and social media
- Inclusion in competitor and spectator communications

Your brand stays visible before, during, and after the event.

6. Strengthened Community Presence

Sponsorship signals your commitment to:

- Supporting equestrian sport

- Investing in regional talent
- Enriching the competitor and spectator experience

It's a powerful way to build goodwill and long-term brand affinity.

7. Built-In Traffic Drivers: Event Highlights

Our signature experiences keep crowds engaged — and moving through sponsor and vendor areas:

- **Thursday:** Wine & Cheese Social
- **Friday:** Twilight Vendor Walk
- **Saturday:** Dinner Buffet + Entertainment
- **Dance in the Ring:** DJ-hosted celebration after dinner


These events create natural opportunities for sponsor visibility and interaction.

Ready to Elevate Your Brand?

Contact:

Alexis Elliott

 ameforward@outlook.com

 305-748-0092

More information:

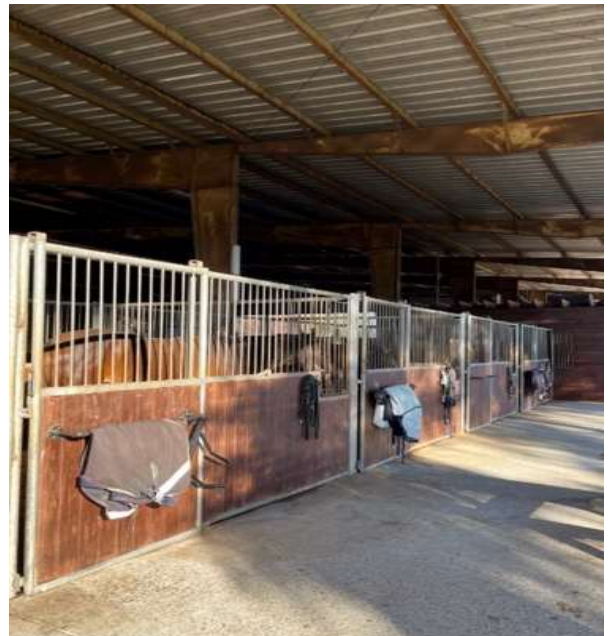
<https://gdcta.org/Championships>

*Sponsorships and vendor applications accepted through **September 25.***

BOUCKAERT FARM – BOARDING 2026!

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

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



June 27, 2026

GDCTA.org



Kudzu Klinik: Dressage with Olivia Lynch

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



- April 11-12: Spring Fling Schooling Show
- May 9-10: Greater ATL Dressage Southern (GADS) I & II
- August 8-9: Summer Finals Schooling Show
- August 29-30: Labor Day Classic I & II
- September 4-6: D4K & ATL Youth Festival
- October 2-4: GAIG/USDF R3 Championships & AFND



GDCCTA.ORG

Greater Atlanta Dressage Southern I & II Wrap-Up

The Greater Atlanta Dressage Southern I & II shows earlier this month brought together an inspiring community of riders, horses, volunteers, officials, and supporters for a weekend of exceptional sport. From the first salute to the final ribbon, the atmosphere at the showgrounds reflected the dedication and sportsmanship that define our region's dressage community.

These shows would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers, whose long hours and steady hands keep every arena running smoothly. To our competitors—thank you for bringing your best, supporting one another, and showcasing the beauty of dressage. And to our generous sponsors—**Twenty For Carrots, Riding Warehouse, and The Harbin Agency**—your commitment to our sport elevates every event and helps us continue offering high-quality competitions for riders at every level.

High Time Photography captured the spirit of the weekend beautifully; competitors may view and purchase photos at hightimephotos.com.



High Score & Special Award Winners

Training Level

- JR/YR High Score: Valentina Melecio & Talento De — 66.400
- AA High Score: Kathy Billingham & Rico — 68.276
- Open High Score: Jessica Ramirez & Sir Robert Charles — 70.800

First Level

- JR/YR High Score: Maya Daniel & De La Muse — 71.249
- AA High Score: Emily Trimble & Dakotas Running Bear — 67.592
- Open High Score: Lindsey Burns & Callista — 68.889



Second Level

- JR/YR High Score: Maya Daniel & De La Muse — 67.000
- AA High Score: Cindy Kennedy & Rembrandt II — 64.881
- Open High Score: Sarah Castleman & Django — 68.857

Third Level

- JR/YR High Score: Anora Jucknies & Arion — 63.499
- AA High Score: Cindy Kennedy & Third Times the Charm — 63.684
- Open High Score: Betsy Kaywood & Starfires Draco — 61.750
- Pony Reserve: Aria Mariney & Destintobe Blue WIE — 57.703
- IGGHR Saturday: Betsy Kaywood & Starfires Draco — 61.750
- IGGHR Sunday: Martene Carleton & Starfires Aries — 57.500

Fourth Level

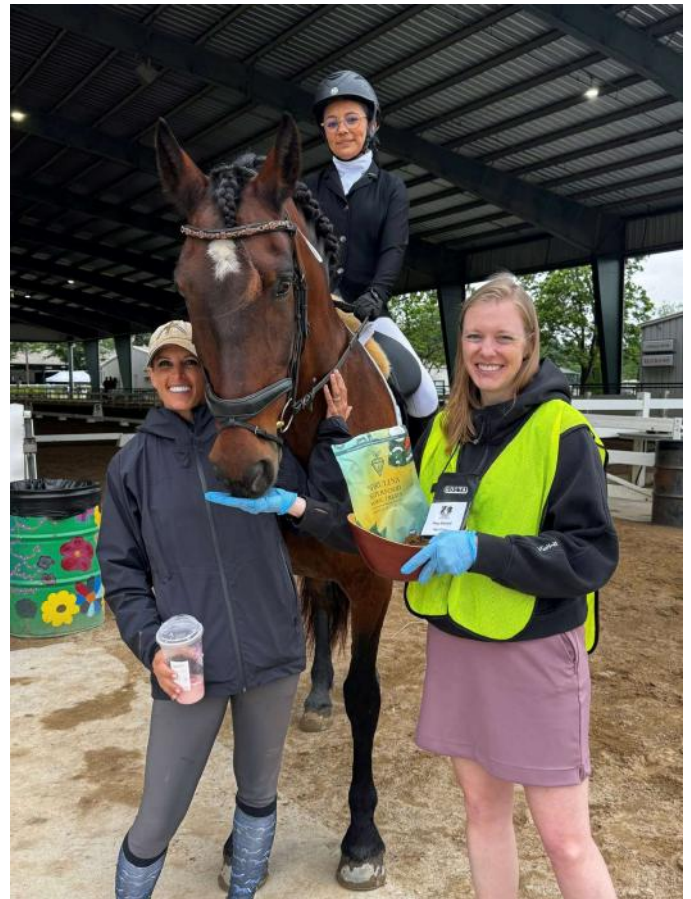
- JR/YR High Score: Alice Burley & S Classic Conversion — 60.555
- AA High Score: Lisa Kapp & Bono-O — 64.861
- Open High Score: Tawny Williamson & Ivy League KF — 69.167

FEI

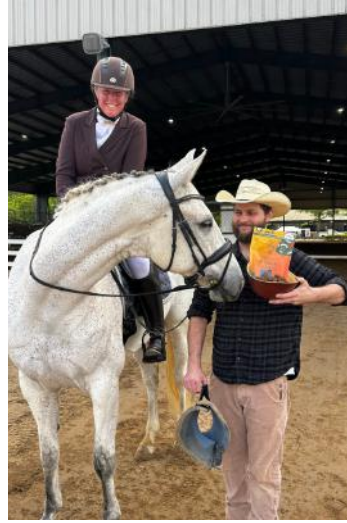
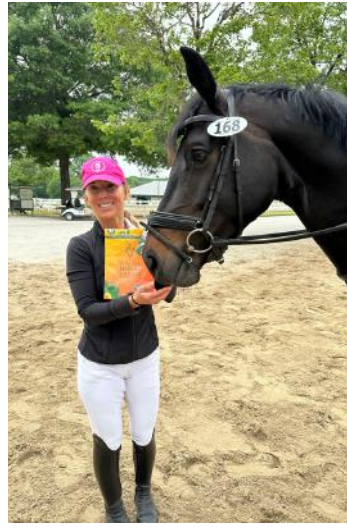
- AA High Score: Phyllis Sumner & Soprano 9 — 64.412
- Open High Score: Mary Piller & Guateque IV — 67.308

Special Awards

- Peri Lambros Memorial I: Phyllis Sumner & Soprano 9 — 64.412
- Vintage I: Vicky Treverton & Alexander 2 — 66.111
- Vintage II: Kathy Billinghamurst & Rico — 68.276
- Pony High Point: Darcy Sun & Blueridge Starhound — 62.432



Congratulations to all riders on a successful weekend. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the arena at the Labor Day Classic I & II in August.



TWENTY FOUR CARROTS
The Diamond Standard of Horse Nutrition



RIDING WAREHOUSE



GDCTA Board 2026

OFFICERS

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

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Lindsey Burns
 Doreen Durr
 Noel Muehlbauer
 Danielle Perry
 Janie Pride
 Dianne Rawlston

YOUTH MEMBERS

TBA

*The 2026 Board was seated at the
January meeting*



Committees 2026

- 1) **Nominating** – 2 Non-outgoing board members
- 2) **Grievance** – 2 VPs, only if there's a complaint
- 3) **Finance** –
 - a. Chair – Peter West
 - b. Sponsorship - Caren Caverly, Aly Elliott
- 4) **Awards** –
 - a. Grants – Janie Pride
- 5) **Award Gala** –
 - a. Chair – Caren Caverly
 - b. Silent Auction – Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
 - c. Barn Raffle – Danielle Perry
- 6) **Education** –
 - a. Chair – Caren Caverly
 - b. Clinics – Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
 - c. Kudzu – Danielle Perry
 - d. L Program – Marian Bickers
- 7) **Youth** –
 - a. Chair – Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
 - b. Schooling or Grassroots – Open
 - c. Recognized – Lindsey Burns, Janie Pride
 - d. Collegiate – Amanda Garner
- 8) **Communication** –
 - a. Chair – Joanne Morse
 - b. Newsletter – Penny Morse, June Brewer
 - c. Website – June Brewer
 - d. Social Media – June Brewer
- 9) **Show** –
 - a. Chair – Julie Shannon
 - b. Recognized – Caren Caverly
 - c. Schooling – Caren Caverly
 1. Horse Show Recognition –
 - d. Regionals 2026
 1. Chair – Caren Caverly
 - e. Volunteer Coordinator – Aly Elliott

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Collected Remarks is the official publication of the Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association, Inc.

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

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

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

Only high resolution (300dpi) Jpeg, PNG, or PDF files will be accepted.

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

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

For information, 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>

DISCLOSURE

Complete GDCTA Board of Directors meeting minutes are available upon request to the Recording Secretary

Financial records are available upon written request to the Treasurer

For information regarding Awards, Show Recognition, Membership, Education or the Website, contact the appropriatechariperson on the website Contact Us page.

<https://gdcta.org/Contact>

Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association

Regular Meeting
March 16, 2026



President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on March 16, 2026, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Ashley Boyd performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse, Ashley Boyd, Carol Tresan, Peter West, Doreen Durr-Sullivan, Janie Pride, Danielle Perry, Noel Muehlbauer, Lindsey Burns and Dee Rawlston were present. The minutes from February 16, 2026, Board Meeting were emailed to the board. Danielle motioned to accept minutes; Dee seconded. The board voted to accept the minutes.

Treasurer's Report – (Peter): February had a slight loss.

VP Dressage Report – (Abi): No Report

VP Combined Training – (Joanne): Working on camp.

Membership Report – (Mary Lou): Everything is down except for junior dressage which is up one and family which is even. Talk to people and try to get people to join.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communication** (Joanne): Newsletter went out earlier this week.
- **Show Committee** (Caren): Schooling show is open and we have 3 entries so far. Lots of changes are made to Wills Park. Caren will not be there for setting up so Lindsey and Ashley will set up on Thursday. Any volunteers that could help Friday morning would be appreciated. Noel volunteered. Carol will be scoring. One of the surveys for Regionals said we could use an upgrade on our prizes. Multiple prize options shared with pricing including a boot polish kit, a sweetie stash for

horse treats, cosmetic bag, toiletry pouch, wine glasses, drinking glass, ale glass, stable groom brush, an apron, portfolio briefcase, journal and pen, a folder, a laundry bag, chilling towel, and golf towel. We also looked at options for volunteer gifts which included water bottles, neck fans, and backpacks. Gift idea for judges is a blanket/throw. Give away items for people picking up packets for regionals boot shine sponge, bamboo nail file, fold up brush with a mirror, and trophy that stress reliever squeeze item. Items emailed to the board with pricing to look over and decide on. We need volunteers for the upcoming schooling show.

- **Finance** (Peter): Nothing to report
- **Youth Program** (Joanne): Moving forward with a committee for D4K and setting up a zoom meeting for it.
- **Awards** (Janie): Grants opened February 1st but have not gotten any yet. Janie will continue with pony awards.
- **Education** (Julie and Abi): Canceled the clinic last weekend and trying to get another date for it. Working on other clinics and the camp.
- **Gala** (Caren): Nothing to report at this time.
- **Regionals** (Caren): VP of USDF and President of USDF sent a Region 3 Championship directive that listing the things they are requiring we do to hold regionals. Show manager, Joe, needs to address what is being done with the footing. The Park said they will laser level all the arenas and will give us a list of what arenas are being used before our date. We will get the arenas that are not used right before the date. The Park will have somebody videoing the laser leveling, so it is documented that it was done. Show Secretary needs to always remain in office with a co-secretary who knows horse show office, we have a co-secretary who is familiar coming. They have waved having a co-

manager. They want an assistant to help Caren and Joe and Kim Faust will be the assistant. Laura King will be there Monday-Thursday as assistant. We must have volunteer coordinator; we have Aly Elliott. She must use a spreadsheet to keep up with it all and share it with them. We need an Awards coordinator, and we have two potential coordinators. We will have runners who will get tests and bring them to the opening of the arena, then a collector with the golf cart will pick up tests from each arena. Caren's brother has volunteered to be the collector.

- **Nominating:** NA

OLD BUSINESS

Email Blasts – (Caren): Just went out today

Horse Registration – (Noel): Other GMOs have horse registration fee and it would help us get some additional funds. Noel sent an email to the board that shared what other GMOs are doing. Joanne asked how we would apply it to end-of-year awards. Noel said in other organizations the rider and horse need to be registered to receive the award. Lifetime fee for horses proposed with an owner change fee and rider declaring-a-horse fee. Discussion about gathering more info about how other organizations implemented this as well as who will oversee tracking horse registration. We need to find out if Wild Apricot can track horse registration. We will discuss it again at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- New members for April – Noel

Joanne motioned to adjourn and Lindsey seconded and the board voted to adjourn.

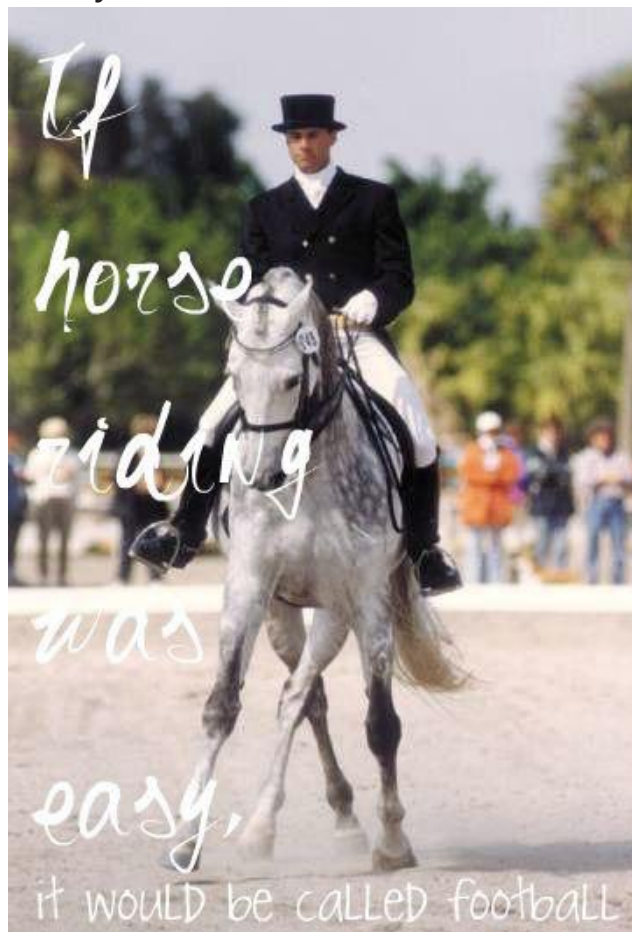
Meeting Adjourned.

Board Meeting Highlights

Each month, the GDCTA board comes together to review our financial health, plan upcoming events, and address any challenges on the horizon. Committees share updates on their ongoing projects, and the board actively explores fresh ideas and new opportunities to keep our club vibrant and engaging.

These meetings are where strategy, creativity, and community intersect — and they offer a great window into the direction and growth of GDCTA. If you're curious about how the organization moves forward, this is where the energy starts.

Meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM via Zoom. If you would like to join a meeting, email Caren at ccaverly@comcast.net



Thank you for your generous gifts!

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

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Kroupa Team Real Estate
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Richard's Equine Video
Simply Dressage
White Pines Farm



GOAT—Greatest Of All Time

2026

January							February							March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				

April							May							June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

July							August							September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4							1			1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												

October							November							December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

Jan 1	New Year's Day	May 10	Mother's Day	Oct 31	Halloween
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	May 25	Memorial Day	Nov 3	Election Day
Feb 14	Valentine's Day	Jun 14	Flag Day	Nov 11	Veterans Day
Feb 16	Presidents' Day	Jun 19	Juneteenth	Nov 26	Thanksgiving Day
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day	Jun 21	Father's Day	Nov 27	Black Friday
Apr 5	Easter Sunday	Jul 3	'Independence Day' day off	Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Apr 6	Easter Monday	Jul 4	Independence Day	Dec 25	Christmas Day
Apr 15	Tax Day	Sep 7	Labor Day	Dec 31	New Year's Eve
May 5	Cinco de Mayo	Oct 12	Columbus Day		

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

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.wildapricot.org/schooling-shows>



Saddle Up for More Than Just Ribbons 🐾

What if your next big win wasn't just in the ring, but also in the friendships and connections you made along the way? 🏆 ✨

At GDCTA, we're more than an organization—we're a community. From schooling shows to year-end awards and clinics, we offer endless opportunities to elevate your equestrian journey. And the best part? You'll be surrounded by people who share your love for horses and the lifestyle that comes with it. 🐾 ❤️

Whether you're here for the ribbons or the ride, we'd love to welcome you into the GDCTA family.

Join today!

<https://gdcta.org/join-us>



Scan me!