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*Georgia Dressage & Combined Training Association*

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On the Cover - Monty watching the world go by.  
Photo by Joanne Morse

GDCTA is a Group Member Organization of USDF



*Check us out*

GDCTA.org

# GDCTA HORSE OF THE MONTH



Submit your stories to [webmaster@gdcta.org](mailto:webmaster@gdcta.org)

# LIZ FASO MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

**Join Us As A Volunteer**  
Volunteering is fun & educational!

[GDCTA.org/Volunteer](http://GDCTA.org/Volunteer)

*Sponsored by Bouckaert Farm*

GDCTA



# Dear Members:

As the first hints of spring arrive, many of us are feeling that familiar sense of renewal that comes with the start of show season. After celebrating the accomplishments of our members at the Awards Gala, it's exciting to shift our focus toward the busy and inspiring year ahead for GDCTA.

One of the first events of our season is the **Spring Fling Schooling Show on April 11–12**, with entries now open. Schooling shows are an important gateway for riders at every level—from those stepping into the arena for the first time to experienced competitors looking for a relaxed environment to develop their horses. They represent the welcoming spirit of GDCTA and the supportive culture that makes our organization special.

As our show season ramps up, I want to take a moment to highlight something that truly keeps these events running: **our volunteers**. Every ring steward, scribe, awards helper, and runner plays a role in making sure riders can focus on their performance and enjoy the competition experience. Quite simply, our events cannot happen without the dedication of members who step forward to help.

Whether you can give a few hours or a full day, your help makes a difference, and we would love to have you join the volunteer team at upcoming events.

Another important way members and supporters can help strengthen GDCTA is through **sponsorships and vendor participation** at our horse shows. Sponsors make it possible for us to offer quality competitions, educational programming, and meaningful awards for our riders. At the same time, our shows attract a passionate equestrian audience, making them an excellent opportunity for businesses to showcase their products and services. If you own a business—or know someone who might enjoy connecting with our community—we warmly welcome sponsors and vendors to be part of our events.

In addition to our competitions and clinics, we are considering special fundraising days with **Kendra Scott Jewelry** and **Bella MedSpa**, where a portion of purchases would benefit GDCTA programs. These events would be a wonderful way to gather socially while supporting the organization. If you would be interested in attending one of these fundraising days, please let us know—your feedback will help us schedule them.

Looking ahead, our calendar will continue to grow with clinics, educational programs, and competitions throughout the year. I encourage you to keep an eye on the events page and our social media channels for the latest announcements.

Thank you for being part of the GDCTA community—whether as a rider, volunteer, sponsor, or supporter. Your enthusiasm and involvement are what make this organization thrive. I look forward to seeing many of you ringside, in the volunteer tent, or out enjoying the season ahead.

Warm regards,

*Caren*

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

# ***Why do Clinics and Shows have to be so expensive?***

***by Penny Morse***



Compared to 5,10, 15 years ago everything is expensive. That is just an unpleasant fact like paying taxes, but are clinics and shows expensive? Are the organizers really making the money you think they are?

For those who have organized a clinic or a show, at this point you are probably smiling, but for those you just pay the entry fee, turn up and complain profusely about how much the weekend is costing, let's look at just what is involved and if there is a profit.

It begins with the location. If you own the location then you have just saved a whole lot of money, but if you do not then you are going to have to negotiate a fee. That can be either a percentage of the net profit, or a set fee. Most people prefer a set fee as they are fully aware that the net profit is not going to put a big smile on their face!

Is the location a just big field or has an arena with some kind of footing and if you are lucky a makeshift cross country course, and the absolute icing on the cake is a covered arena. Whatever the location the more amenities it has, the more you will pay, and for those who cannot possibly attend unless there is stabling, well, good luck.

30 years ago, when there was a schooling show somewhere twice a month, we would load trailers and trucks and cars with everything needed for the day and camp out. The ponies and horses would be tied to the trailer munching on hay and drinking water from a bucket that was filled the other side of the field and carried back with one person each side. The fancier shows would have someone selling hot dogs and burgers and a small selection of coke products. The arenas were on grass with hay bales surrounding them and the dressage arenas were wood planks. The jumps were all homemade and painted by the local kids in a rainbow of colors. The office was usually in a tent or a shed and the scores were determined by a calculator. Results were slow, and no one complained. The ribbons were simple. We all had the best time and could not wait for the next one. It was affordable because it was simply run. The organizers made a profit, not huge but enough to put towards the next show and make a little for their time.

Over the last 20 years everything has changed. Competitors have become more demanding, expecting fancier ribbons, better judges and running more like a recognized show. These days the fifty cents ribbon is now \$5, and the bridle Number is another fifty cents. There are still small shows, but to help with the expense of the organized show, larger facilities upped the standard of small shows, offering stables and fancy footing and vinyl-style dressage arenas and cross-country courses that many had never ridden before, only viewed as a spectator. However, those upgrades made the cost of showing increase substantially and hurt the smaller shows as the competitors' needs and expectations became prohibitive.

The arenas were still there from the previous recognized events but adding stabling and Judges that were either a l. or L or even r or R was just the start of the increase in expenses. Insurance for the event went up, scoring became electronic, and the competitors began to expect a nicer location. A prestige location has a price, and it is lot higher than in that field. So, let us look at the costs. The land starts with taxes, and the bigger the location the higher the taxes. Maintenance is a major expense on just seeding, mowing, aerating, and landscaping and the cost of people doing it. Arena footing is expensive and must be taken care of for it to survive horses as well as weather.

Fences around the arenas must be in perfect condition for all events, jumps must be constantly checked for safety and regularly painted, and the life expectancy is only so long. Mowers, tractors, and other such heavy equipment have a hefty price tag and need maintenance let alone people who operate them. This just touches the surface, as we then get into maintenance on stabling, bathrooms, roads and then there is the price of ever-increasing utilities. Let us not forget the cost of the facility crew, officials, judges, vets, paramedics, office staff and the travel and hospitality needed to take care of them. This is reality and it is extremely expensive. It would be amiss of me not to mention USEF/USEA/USDF rule recognition for their shows for a price that keeps going up and even local (or specifically GDCTA) recognition for schooling shows has a small price. Everyone wants a piece of pie, and the pie just gets smaller.

It must be obvious by now why facilities are not cheap to lease but let us just look at the cost of organizing a clinic. The weather is always an issue, so a covered arena is preferable, especially when it comes to dressage or jumping. The average cost of leasing a covered arena with seating and area for trailers and parking can be anything up to \$2500 per day. Most facilities offer the use of a drag as it is in their interest to keep the footing turned over. The clinician can be anything from \$50 to \$300 per ride or a flat fee of \$1000 to \$3000 per day. Remember they can only teach so many people in a day. Insurance! Yes, it keeps rearing its ugly head, but it is necessary. Around \$150 to \$350 per day depending on the event and the company. Just because the clinician and the facility have insurance, the organizer must also have liability.

Travel and living expenses! If they can stay with the organizer that saves a hotel bill but there is still mileage or even a plane ticket to cover.

Bathrooms are necessary, and not all facilities are able to cater to multiple attendees, so two porta-potties are required, adding another \$250 at least for the weekend. Including lunch for auditors and riders is out of the question unless it is plausible to add at least \$10 to \$15 to the entry fee. There are so many variables but if you can attend a clinic with a reputable clinician who has a great reputation for under \$300 per ride, I would jump on it because you are getting the deal of the century.



Horses are not only heart breaking, back breaking, and soul destroying they are also expensive. If you want to improve and learn and be good at the very thing you have a passion for, there is a price, and it is not cheap. The cost of the horse is not the biggest expense; it is everything else that goes with him. The next time you see a show or a clinic that in your opinion is expensive I would bet anything that the organizer is not making the profit you think they are making if any profit at all and is in fact contributing to your further education and entertainment out of their own pocket. Their time is donated to the equestrian sport for it to continue and make it available to as many as possible. The days of sponsorship are long gone. Businesses are more careful these days just in case they might endure another COVID situation or something similar.

***When you decide to ride with a particular clinician, do not ask for a discount, or why is not lunch included, just budget your money, pack a lunch box, and thank the organizer for their hard work and dedication to your sport.***

# 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



# Become Part of the Team: Volunteer at Upcoming GDCTA Events

The Georgia Dressage & Combined Training Association (GDCTA) thrives because of the dedication, passion, and teamwork of its members. As a member-run organization, GDCTA depends on volunteers to bring its shows, clinics, educational programs, and community gatherings to life. If you're looking for a rewarding way to give back while connecting with fellow horse enthusiasts, volunteering at an upcoming GDCTA event is the perfect opportunity.

Throughout the year, GDCTA hosts a variety of activities—from schooling shows and recognized competitions to educational clinics and member gatherings. Major events like the GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships and other competitions rely on a strong volunteer team to ensure everything runs smoothly, from preparing arenas and assisting judges to greeting riders and supporting the flow of the show. Volunteers truly are the behind-the-scenes magic that makes these events possible.

The great news is that volunteering is easy and welcoming—even if you've never done it before. New volunteers receive guidance and training, and experienced volunteers are always happy to help newcomers learn the ropes. Whether you have a few hours or an entire day to spare, there are many roles available, including scribing for judges, ring stewarding, assisting with awards, helping with show office tasks, or supporting riders and horses around the show grounds.

Volunteering also provides a unique opportunity to see the sport from a different perspective. Many riders find that scribing or working ringside helps them better understand how tests are judged and how competitions operate. It's also a wonderful way to meet judges, trainers, competitors, and other members of the dressage and eventing community. For newer members, volunteering can be one of the fastest ways to become connected

within GDCTA and learn more about the sport.

There are benefits beyond the experience as well. GDCTA offers a volunteer incentive program, the Liz Faso Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award, which recognizes members who contribute significant volunteer hours throughout the year. The top volunteer earns a \$1,000 award, with additional prizes for second and third place and a raffle for those who volunteer at least 24 hours during the year. It's a meaningful way to recognize the dedication of members who help keep the organization strong.

Most importantly, volunteering is fun. There's a special energy that comes from being part of the team that makes a show or event happen. From cheering on riders to celebrating a junior competitor's victory lap, volunteers experience the excitement of the sport from the inside.

As the GDCTA calendar continues to fill with events across the region, now is a perfect time to step in and get involved. Visit the GDCTA events page to find upcoming opportunities and sign up for a time that works for you. Whether you're a longtime competitor, a supportive family member, or simply passionate about the equestrian community, your time and enthusiasm make a difference.

Join the volunteer team and help make the next GDCTA event a success! 🐾

***Volunteers are needed for all events!***

**Register on the event page if you want to volunteer (and earn hours toward the [Liz Faso Memorial Volunteer of the Year](#)).**

Or contact Volunteer Coordinator Aly Elliott  
[ameforward@outlook.com](mailto:ameforward@outlook.com)



- 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



G D C T A . O R G

# Have You Set Your Riding Goals and Marked Your Calendar for Events That Support Those Goals?

By GDCTA Contributor

Spring's first warm breeze always feels like an invitation—time to dust off the tack trunk, stretch our horses' legs, and step confidently into a brand-new show season. In Georgia, where winter is closer to a suggestion than a season, the shift into spring riding comes quickly. One week you're bundled in layers, the next you're shedding jackets and realizing the calendar is already filling with opportunities to ride, learn, and compete. For GDCTA members, that momentum is especially exciting because the Association's spring and early-summer lineup offers something for every rider, from juniors and amateurs to seasoned competitors.

## A Season of Preparation

As the days lengthen, many riders use this time to refresh conditioning programs, polish basics, and set goals for the year. Spring is ideal for rebuilding strength after winter downtime—long, slow work to reestablish fitness, followed by thoughtful schooling to sharpen transitions, suppleness, and responsiveness. It's also the perfect moment to check equipment fit, update memberships, and make sure your horse's health care—vaccinations, dental work, and farrier schedules—is aligned with upcoming travel and competition.

But preparation isn't just physical. Spring is a mental reset too. Riders often take this time to reflect on what they want from the season: qualifying scores, new levels, confidence-building outings, or simply more time in the saddle. GDCTA's calendar supports all of those goals with a blend of education, community, and competition.

## Key GDCTA Events to Kick Off Your Season

The early-year schedule is rich with opportunities to learn, audit, and compete. Highlights include:



- **Spring Fling Schooling Show – April 11–12, 2026 (Alpharetta, GA)**  
The perfect early-season outing. With double points toward year-end awards and even a Century Ride celebration, this show blends friendly atmosphere with meaningful competition.
- **Greater Atlanta Dressage Southern I & II – May 9–10, 2026 (Conyers, GA)**  
Two separate shows in one weekend, offering qualifying opportunities and a polished environment for riders aiming for regional goals.

# Spring Fling Returns: Kick Off the Show Season with GDCTA

Spring in Georgia brings longer days, greener pastures, and the exciting return of show season. For many riders in the region, the season begins with one of GDCTA's most anticipated early competitions: the **GDCTA Spring Fling Schooling Show**, scheduled for **April 11–12, 2026** at the Wills Park Equestrian Center in Alpharetta, Georgia.

The Spring Fling has become a favorite on the GDCTA calendar because it offers something for everyone—from riders taking their first steps down centerline to experienced competitors preparing for recognized shows later in the season. With dressage and combined training classes available, the show provides a welcoming environment to gain mileage, build confidence, and enjoy the camaraderie of the local equestrian community.

## A Show Designed for Learning and Fun

Schooling shows are the perfect place to practice, learn, and grow as a rider. Judges at this year's event include respected L-graduate professionals such as Sally Crews, Cindy Thaxton, Marian Bickers, and Robin Tardy, along with Ashley Boyd judging stadium jumping for combined training. Their experience ensures riders receive helpful feedback in a supportive setting that encourages progress and development.

Ribbons and prizes will be awarded across all classes, and riders can choose from a range of dressage tests, including introductory through higher levels, along with combined training divisions. Whether you are bringing along a young horse, polishing a new test, or introducing a student to their first show experience, the Spring Fling offers the ideal opportunity to get out and ride.

## Double the Points, Double the Opportunity

One of the most exciting features of the Spring Fling is that it is **hosted by GDCTA**, meaning scores earned at the show count toward GDCTA year-end awards. Even better, the weekend counts as **two separate shows**, giving riders multiple chances to earn qualifying scores in a single weekend.

## Team Spirit and Special Awards

In addition to individual classes, riders can participate in the **Team**

**Challenge**, where friends, families,

barns, and trainers can combine their scores to compete as a team. It's a fun way to celebrate teamwork and encourage riders of all levels to participate together.

Another crowd favorite is the **Atlanta Saddlery Busiest Trainer Award**, presented to the trainer who brings the most students to the show.

## Volunteers, Vendors, and Sponsors Welcome

Like all GDCTA events, the Spring Fling depends on volunteers to make the weekend run smoothly. Opportunities include scribing, ring stewarding, helping with ribbons and awards, jump crew, and general show support. Volunteers can also earn hours toward the **Liz Faso Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award**, which recognizes members who contribute significant volunteer time throughout the year.



The show also welcomes **vendors and sponsors**, making it a great opportunity for equestrian businesses to connect with riders and spectators throughout the weekend.

### Join the Celebration

Entries are open through [HorseShowOffice.com](https://HorseShowOffice.com), and the closing date is **April 3, 2026**.

Whether you plan to ride, volunteer, shop, or simply cheer on friends and teammates, the GDCTA Spring Fling Schooling Show promises a weekend filled with learning, encouragement, and the joyful spirit of the equestrian community.

So polish your boots, braid those manes, and join us at Wills Park to celebrate the start of another exciting GDCTA show season. 🐾 ✨



**Bring Your Own Hot Spot!**

Stay connected at the horse show grounds with ease!

Find shows at [GDCTA.org](https://GDCTA.org)



*GDCTA Spring Fling Schooling Show April 11-12*

**Enter now!**

*Entries Open on [HorseShowOffice.com](https://HorseShowOffice.com)*

*Volunteers needed!*

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

# GDCTA Training Grants

The GDCTA Training Grants are available for active GDCTA members who have not won a grant within the last two years, are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, engaged in a consistent riding program with instruction, and demonstrate commitment to improving their riding skills through training with a qualified trainer.

## Overview of the GDCTA Training Grants

- GDCTA awards **four grants annually**, each worth **\$800**, to help member-riders improve their riding through focused training with a trainer of their choice.
- These grants are designed to provide opportunities that may not be available in the recipient's daily routine and promote educational growth in dressage and combined training.

## Eligibility Requirements

- **GDCTA Membership:** Must be a member in good standing of the Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association.
- **Citizenship:** Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents with a Green Card.
- **Active Riding Program:** The applicant should have been involved in a regular riding program with active instruction for at least the last three years.
- **Training Plan:** The grant is intended for concentrated work, so applicants must have a training plan and choose a recognized or certified trainer for their educational focus.

## Grant Categories

There are four grant categories, with one grant awarded in each category:

- Adult Amateur – Dressage
- Professional

- Combined Training
- Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR)

## Application Process

- **Intent to Apply:** Register online via the GDCTA event calendar by the stated deadline (usually early June).
- **Application Submission:** Complete the official application form, including a trainin plan, and submit it along with at least one reference letter and a letter from the train you plan to work with. Applications are emailed to Janie Pride (janiepride@yahoo.com).
- **Deadlines:** Check the GDCTA website for exact application deadlines each year.

## Grant Use and Recipient Obligations

- The grant funds must be used within one year toward educational programs such as seminars, clinics, workshops, or training sessions with certified instructors.
- Upon award, recipients receive \$600 upfront after confirming training details, and the remaining \$200 is paid after submitting a written article about their training experience to the GDCTA newsletter, *Collected Remarks*.
- Recipients are required to:
  - Write an article describing their training experience for GDCTA publications.

- Give a verbal report at a GDCTA board meeting after completing the training.
- Volunteer at least 8 hours at a GDCTA event or function within one year of receiving the grant.

#### Additional Benefits

- Each recipient also receives a special journal donated by The Equestrian Journal, plus a coaching session on journaling to help maximize their training progress.



Apply from  
February 1-June 1st

#### Summary

If you are an active GDCTA member committed to improving your riding skills and involved in ongoing instruction, and you're a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, you are likely eligible to apply for a GDCTA Training Grant. This grant supports concentrated, quality instruction with a trainer of your choice and encourages sharing your growth with the GDCTA community.

For more information, updates on deadlines, and specific application details, visit the official GDCTA website [GDCTA.org](http://GDCTA.org) or navigate directly to the Training Grants page on their calendar.

Applying for the GDCTA Training Grant is a great step to take your dressage or combined training to the next level while actively contributing to your local equestrian community.

GDCTA Members

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ONLINE ONLY

More Information

<https://gdcta.org/event-6522208>





# GREATER ATLANTA DRESSAGE SOUTHERN I & II

MAY 9-10, 2026

GEORGIA HORSE PARK  
1996 CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC PARKWAY  
CONYERS, GA

*GDCTA.org*

*HorseShowOffice.com*



**THANK YOU SPONSORS!**  
THE HARBIN AGENCY

## **BRAIDERS**

TRISH SAVARD: REEH89@HOTMAIL.COM / 413-244-3763

TONYA SCRUGGS: BRAIDBANDTAILS@GMAIL.COM / 678-588-4280

ASHLEY IVANY: 336-209-4594 / @SOUTHERN.EQUESTRIAN.ELEGANCE

## **OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER:**

HIGH TIME PHOTOGRAPHY, JOHN & CHRISTIE SNYDER 336-671-4446

HIGHTIMEPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM, HIGHTIMEPHOTOS.COM

\*\*\*

*MEMBER'S SCORES FROM THIS SHOW COUNT TWICE TOWARD  
GDCTA YEAR-END AWARDS!!*

# Why Dressage?

By Susan Travis

I was asked what makes some of us so drawn to, enamored of, dressage while other horsepersons are on the other end of the spectrum, some even thinking dressage is too complicated and possibly even taxing for the horses.

My Spirit Guides tell me that this is a time of co-creation on earth, that each of us has learned through many life experiences how to create individually (although it so often feels as if we don't know!), but now we strive to create as like-minded, or like-vibration, human spirits here on earth together – not by accident!

For those who love horses, or any animals for that matter, co-creating with them is a perfect place to start the learning process. Other human partners can be so opinionated, (as can we!), and divergent opinions staunchly defended can make co-creation seem like an uphill battle. But dressage offers the benefits of co-creation without the sometimes-intense struggle we experience with other people. Horses, as a rule, are very willing to work with their partners, strive to please, and unless they are in pain, are quite agreeable about trying to learn new steps. They seem to take great joy and pride in doing so as a matter of fact. For the detail oriented, accomplishment loving of us, dressage is perfect. There is always a next level, always another goal and always the joy (or hopefully always!) of the journey.

Of course, other activities with horses can be just as intense and goal oriented and have the potential to create a strong feeling of partnership and love with our horses. Joy being the ultimate goal in life, because when we feel joy we are one with our Higher Selves, feeling the same vibration as that of our true selves, trail riding or even ground work and unmounted games, satisfies the desire to co-create.

Dressage is just unique in its complexity of components, not limited to speed and greater speed to which there is a limit, as its goal, for example. And there's no end to the possibilities of new learning and accomplishment, just layers and layers to joyfully uncover.

## **About the Author**

Susan Travis spent more than 40 years channeling spiritual guidance for both humans and animals. Among her most unusual readings were two African claw-toed frogs, one of whom introduced himself as "Ish"—a charming reminder of how animals communicate. While she worked with many species, her greatest passion was helping people connect more deeply with their horses.

Horses hold a unique place in our lives. Unlike pets, whose behavior rarely reflects our abilities, horses challenge us to grow. They become mirrors of our emotional and mental states, requiring us to rise and meet them. Too often, this dynamic brings frustration, as riders struggle to meet expectations.

Travis urged riders to ask: *What do I truly want from my relationship with my horse?* The answer, she taught, is not about impressing others or achieving perfection, but about the feelings we want to create. Many riders discover that instead of joy, they feel frustration or disappointment. Rather than blaming the horse, time, or equipment, she encouraged looking inward at our motivations.

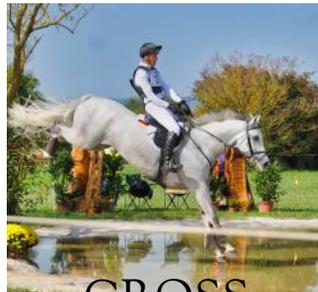
By shifting mindset, we can transform not only our riding but our entire partnership with horses. Each "Inspiring Thought" invites us to see from a new perspective, opening the door to more peace, fulfillment, and harmony—with our horses and within ourselves.

# GALLOP & GLORY AWARD

(EVENTING & CT)



DRESSAGE



CROSS  
COUNTRY



STADIUM

A bold new GDCTA honor celebrating eventing excellence and the thrill of top performance.

This award recognizes riders who finish with scores in the 20s at USEA-recognized horse trials or GDCTA-recognized schooling shows — a true mark of mastery across all three phases.

Eventing is a test of courage, precision, and partnership, and the Gallop & Glory Award salutes those who tackle it all with grit, grace, and undeniable glory. ✨

#### RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY:

Riders must:

- Be a current GDCTA member in good standing
- Opt into the GDCTA Awards Program before earning scores (via membership form or email to Membership Chairperson)
- Complete a USEA-recognized horse trial or GDCTA-recognized schooling show
- Finish with a score in the 20s
- Events must occur between October 1 and September 30 of the awards year

#### INDUCTEES EACH RECEIVE:

- A custom certificate recognizing your achievement
- Recognition in the GDCTA newsletter "Collected Remarks"
- Acknowledgement at the Awards Gala

FULL DETAILS ON [GDCTA.ORG](https://www.gdcta.org)



## *Peaches & Perfect Circles Club*

*(Dressage)*



🍑 A fresh new GDCTA honor celebrating the artistry and precision of dressage excellence.

Riders who score 70% or higher in any dressage test earn a coveted spot in this exclusive club—a true mark of mastery in the arena.

This recognition isn't just about ribbons; it's about celebrating the grace, grit, and dedication it takes to ride those sweet, round circles to perfection.

Join the ranks of Georgia's finest —because earning 70% or higher is no small feat, and we think that deserves a peach of a celebration!



### **Rules for Eligibility**

- Be a current GDCTA member in good standing
- Opt into the GDCTA Awards Program before earning scores
- Earn a score of 70.000% or higher in any USEF/USDF-recognized dressage show or at any GDCTA-recognized schooling show
- Scores must be earned between October 1 and September 30 of the awards year

### **Each inductee receives:**

- A custom certificate recognizing your achievement
- Recognition in the GDCTA newsletter
- Acknowledgement at Awards Gala



**Full details on  
GDCTA.org**

*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**

# GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships



Oct 2-4, 2026

Georgia Horse Park,  
Conyers, GA

Champions  
*aren't made*  
in one ride.

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*“Champions are made  
from something they have  
deep inside them - a  
desire, a dream, a vision.”*

*-Muhammad Ali*

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GDCTA.ORG

# 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](mailto:designonpenny@yahoo.com) and [webmaster@gdcta.org](mailto:webmaster@gdcta.org).

## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

For information, 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](http://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>

## 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  
January 19, 2026

President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on January 19, 2026, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Ashley Boyd performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Abigail Kroupa, Joanne Morse, Ashley Boyd, Carol Tresan, Peter West, Doreen Durr Sullivan, Lindsey Burns, Danielle Perry, Noel Muehlbauer, and Dee Rawlston were present. Ally Elliot was on as a guest. The minutes from December 15, 2025, General Membership Meeting and Board Meeting were emailed to the board. Joanne motioned to accept minutes; Lindsey seconded. The board voted to accept the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report** – (Peter): No Report

**VP Dressage Report** – (Abi): No Report

**VP Combined Training** – (Joanne): Joanne reported that camp is set with Stable View and all trainers except for one has confirmed. Joanne will offer preregistration to people who have participated before. June 8-11 is the date for the camp.

**Membership Report** – (Mary Lou): We are down from last year and a lot of the numbers down are with Eventing.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communication** (Joanne): Jan/Feb is joint newsletter that will go out after Gala.
- **Show Committee** (Caren): Two schooling at Wills Park and two recognized at Conyers, as well as Regionals.
- **Finance** (Peter): This past year was different from years past because we made sure we made money. So those events made money which made us a profit.
- **Youth Program** (Joanne): No Report

## Board Meeting



- **Awards** (Janie): Grants will open Feb 1st.
- **Education** (Julie and Abi): Working on a ride-a-test clinic for the new dressage tests in eventing.
- **Gala** (Caren): We need to get the award winners that have not responded contacted with arrangements to get awards. We need more auction items and raffle baskets. We are currently down in attendance. Gala jobs have been assigned.
- **Regionals** (Caren): We need to wow everybody this year. Brainstorming about opportunities to raise funds etc. for the event.
- **Nominating**: NA

### OLD BUSINESS

**Email Blasts** – (Caren): Gala and clinic

### NEW BUSINESS

- New members for February – Caren
- Committees for 2026 – The committees were listed off with current chairs listed and people assigned or volunteered for open areas.
- Budgets for 2026 – Each budget was sent to the board members, and the board was asked if there were any questions for each budget. Caren commented on the Convention expenses on the General Office budget that for Dressage it will be lower. The number was adjusted down on that budget. There were no additional changes to any of the other budgets. Danielle motioned to accept all the budgets, and Carol seconded. The board voted to pass the budgets.

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

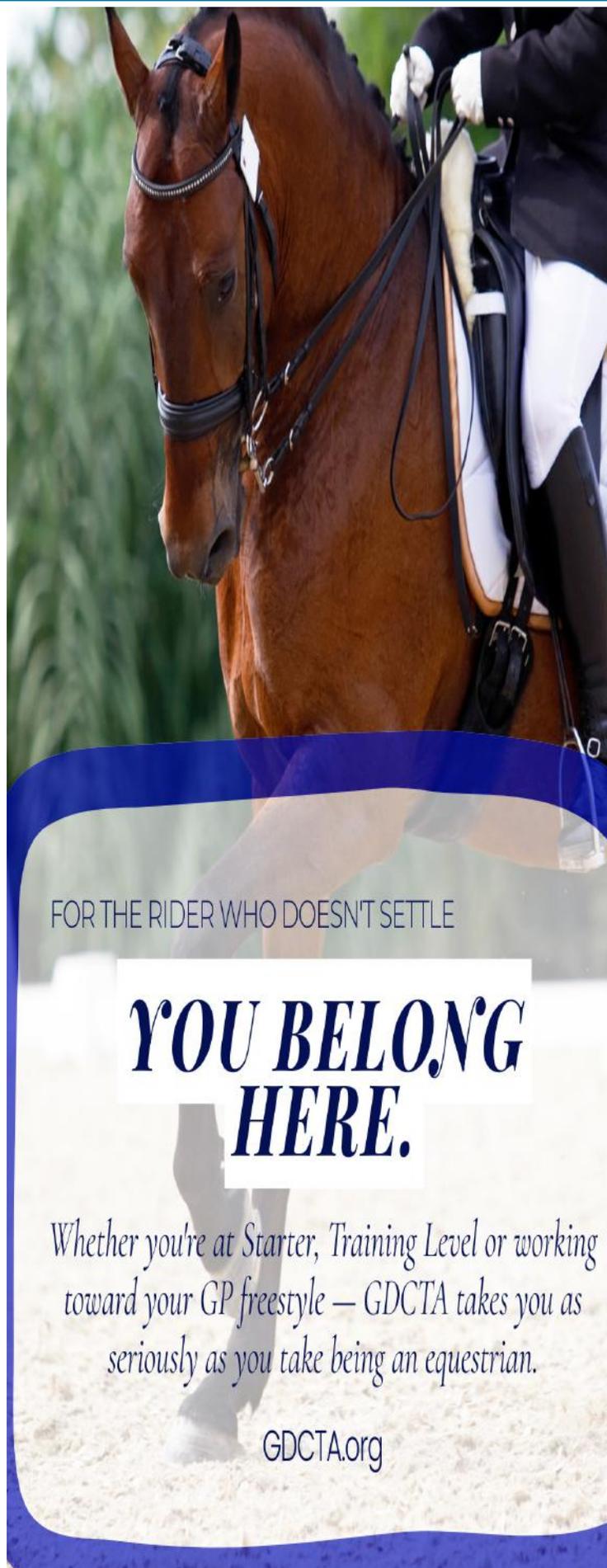
Meeting Adjourned.

### *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](mailto:ccaverly@comcast.net)



FOR THE RIDER WHO DOESN'T SETTLE

**YOU BELONG  
HERE.**

*Whether you're at Starter, Training Level or working toward your GP freestyle — GDCTA takes you as seriously as you take being an equestrian.*

GDCTA.org

# 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.*

## **Sponsors**

Atlanta Saddlery  
Bouckaert Farm  
The Harbin Agency  
Lisa Seger Insurance  
Noble Steeds LLC  
Riding Warehouse

## **Donors**

Leslie Allen  
Sandra Almond  
Eliot Axt  
Julie Bakken  
Caryl Berzack \*  
Beth Bishop  
Meghan Cameron  
Jamie Comstock  
Lisa Curtin \*  
Ains Cushion  
Evelyn Dampier  
Terr Davis  
Susan Day \*  
Abbey Dondanville  
Anne Dutton  
Kimberly Faist  
Robin Felton  
Candice Flig  
Amy Hoffield  
Michele Jester  
Betsy Kaywood  
Holly Kohaut  
Lois Lassiter  
Sydney Lee \*  
Linda Light  
Sara Lowrey  
Ashley Marascalco  
Katie Mattick

Jennifer Melcher  
Christi Meyers  
Crockett Miller  
Carol Morgan  
Brie Murray  
Cara Oswalt  
Robin Puryear  
Elin Sebert  
Nancy Thrasher  
Claudia Tomaselli  
Alexa Wegner  
Dorothy Whelchel  
Sandra Wight  
Monica Williamson  
Virginia Woodcock  
Mary Youngblood \*

## **Championship & AFND Sponsors**

**Silver Sponsor:** Noble Steeds

**Bronze Sponsor:** Kroupa Team Real Estate

**Hospitality Sponsor:**

Triple Crown Feed - Thursday Welcome Party

**Arena Sponsors:**

The Kroupa Team Real Estate  
CU @ X  
Triple Crown Feed  
Dressage TestPro  
Noble Steed  
Riding Warehouse  
Wilson Custom Blanket

**Class Sponsors:**

In Loving Memory of T'Challa owned by Jennifer Macklin  
Kroupa Team Real Estate  
MangoBay Design  
Mirrors for Training USA  
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!*