

December 2023

# Collected Remarks



Merry  
Christmas!

Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association, Inc.

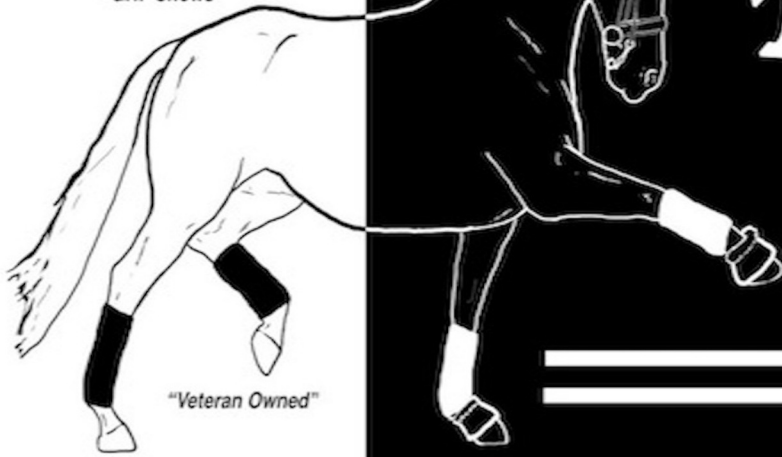
GDCTA is a Group Member Organization of USDF.



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Opening Parade of the Southeast Schooling Show Championships at Bouckart Farm in Fairburn, Georgia.

PHOTO: Jennifer Bishop Photography



**GDCTA**

*Georgia Dressage & Combined Training Association*

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*Check us out*



GDCTA.org





# Outside the Sandbox

*delivering general articles and activities*

# Dear Members:

As the magical season of Christmas approaches, I trust this newsletter finds you basking in the enchantment of the holiday spirit. Reflecting on the transformative nature of 2023, I am filled with gratitude for the journey we've undertaken together. As the year draws to a close, I am thrilled to share some heartening updates that bode well for the coming year.

In 2024, GDCTA will mark its 50th Anniversary, a monumental milestone that deserves a celebration of grand proportions. I am genuinely bubbling with enthusiasm as we prepare an extravaganza to honor this remarkable journey. Join us in crafting this celebration – we need your passion and creativity. Consider becoming an integral part of the celebration committee; your unique contribution will undoubtedly make it an event to remember.

Save the date for our Holiday Meeting Zoom on December 18 at 7:00 PM. Picture a virtual gathering adorned with festive attire, delectable holiday treats, and the joyous camaraderie of our GDCTA family. Let me know if you wish to join this merriment, and I'll ensure you receive the details straight to your inbox.

The anticipation is building for our Awards Gala, a glittering occasion that promises to be the highlight of January 20, 2024. Secure your tickets swiftly as they are flying off the shelves: <https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/event-5182572>. If you have a contribution, ensure it reaches us by January 12th. The Silent Auction and Barn Basket Raffle, hosted online at [gdcta.cbo.io](https://gdcta.cbo.io) starting January 17th, will add an extra layer of excitement.

Looking ahead, our calendar is brimming with exciting prospects. Anticipate not one but two schooling show weekends, at least three USEF/USDF show weekends, and diverse clinics encompassing dressage, eventing, and Kudzu. Stay abreast of these events through our Event Calendar: <https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/events>.

Discover the breadth of offerings on our new Programs page, featuring Grants, Youth initiatives, and Awards: <https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/Programs>

In closing, I extend heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and engagement. Your role in our organization is invaluable, and as we embrace the promise of 2024, your insights are our guiding star. Reach out to any board member and share your thoughts on how we can elevate your GDCTA experience.

As we bid farewell to 2023, may your holiday season be filled with joy, warmth, laughter, and, of course, cherished moments with our equine companions. Thank you for being an integral part of this extraordinary journey.

Here's to a spectacular 2024, where the spirit of GDCTA continues to flourish and unite us all.

*Caren*



Caren Caverly  
President, GDCTA  
[ccaverly@comcast.net](mailto:ccaverly@comcast.net)  
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# ~GDCTA members are Group Members of USDF!~



UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

## USDF Group Membership Benefits

### **ELIGIBLE TO:**

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

### **RESOURCES:**

- Printed *USDF Connection* magazine (six issues, including annual yearbook\*)
- *USDF Member Guide*
- Full access to USDF's digital publications, including *USDF Connection*
- USDF eNews, sent monthly to all USDF members
- Access to USDF's online education resources, including USDF University
- Full access to [USDFscores.com](#), the official USDF source for the most accurate and complete dressage scores

*\*Membership must be received by USDF, by December 31, to receive the yearbook.*

### **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)*

### **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](#).

Renew your GDCTA membership now  
<https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/join-us>



# *GDCTA Awards Gala*

*January 20, 2024*

*Atlanta Marriott Alpharetta  
5750 Windward Parkway  
Alpharetta, GA 30005*

*Tickets go on sale on December 13th*

*Award winners will receive an email invitation.*

*The GDCTA Annual Awards Gala is a standout event in the equestrian calendar, celebrating excellence in dressage and combined training. Attendees engage in thrilling experiences like a competitive silent auction for exclusive items and a barn basket raffle featuring fantastic equine-related prizes. Door prizes and swag bags add an extra layer of appreciation for all guests. The highlight of the night is the prestigious awards ceremony, recognizing outstanding riders and horses. This must-attend gala not only fosters a sense of community but also serves as GDCTA's primary fundraiser, supporting clinics, shows, forums, and more. Join us for a night of celebration, competition, and camaraderie!*

*Donations being accepted now!*

*Gala Chairwoman:*

*Caren L. Caverly [ccaverly@comcast.net](mailto:ccaverly@comcast.net) 770-713-4025*

*Silent Auction / Door Prizes:*

*Abigail Kroupa [abigailkroupa@gmail.com](mailto:abigailkroupa@gmail.com) 561-284-3228*

*Joanne Morse [joannemorse1@yahoo.com](mailto:joannemorse1@yahoo.com) 770-313-6283*

*Lacey Halstead [wholehorsesaddlefit@gmail.com](mailto:wholehorsesaddlefit@gmail.com) 404-590-1064*

*Raffle Barn Baskets:*

*Julie Shannon [julie@shannondale.com](mailto:julie@shannondale.com) 770-317-3336*

*Katie Patton [kpatton01@gmail.com](mailto:kpatton01@gmail.com) 404-663-8916*



# 2023

# The Grand Finale

## The SESSC

What a weekend! It was meant to rain, but it stayed dry in SESSC world, even though it was very wet everywhere else!!!

The whole event was incredible with so much support from competitors to trainers to parents and relatives and our local businesses who step up and help us finance the event. The committee worked tirelessly to make sure everyone had a memorable time. I hope you can enjoy a small sample of the pictures taken this year by Charles Rusin, Dave McKissick, Charlotte Cutter, Sarah Maloney and Jennifer Bishop!











## *GDCTA Seeks a Volunteer Coordinator.*

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

*A Volunteer Coordinator helps organize all aspects of volunteering, from recruiting new volunteers to promoting opportunities for people who want more hours in their schedule for the volunteer program. They also keep event organizers informed about administrative changes, schedule changes, and who needs training or has experience, et cetera.*

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

*Also seeking a Sponsorship Coordinator. Ask Caren for details!  
ccaverly@comcast.net / 770-713-4025*



# *Congratulations to Eliot Axt!*



Sophomore Eliot Axt is one of eight riders in the nation to receive the “Dressage Spirit Award” from the United States Dressage Foundation. This award is given based on positive spirit, commitment to the sport and overall character. Well done, Eliot!

# My First Dressage4Kids Clinic with Lendon Gray

By Elena Moffitt



This year, I was able to participate in the D4K Clinic with Lendon Gray for the first time. I cannot describe in words how amazing it was. During my clinic rides, I learned so much about my riding from Lendon. She pointed out both good and bad things about my riding. We focused on my position, making my horse bend, and making sure I was riding my best walk. We also rode some movements from the dressage test I had to memorize. I also learned so much from Agi Yother and Dr. Aimee Vaughn, who presented to our group. I especially liked meeting Virginia Woodcock and Emily Hewitt, who talked about their experience riding. They gave us some tips and talked about how they felt when they were competing at NAYC.

During the clinic there was also a dressage show going on. This was my first time ever competing at a horse show! I had 2 rides. I rode Training Level Test 2. For the clinic and the show, I borrowed a horse, Prada, from Liz Molloy. I felt very prepared for the show because Lendon had prepared me so much, which I am so grateful for. Without Lendon's help, I do not think I would have done as well. For my first ever show, Prada and I took 2 first places. I also earned the Highest Dressage test score at the Atlanta Youth Festival!

I am so grateful for all the people who helped me get through the clinic and the show. Without them, I really would not have been so successful. What I learned from the D4K clinic and from this show is amazing. I definitely recommend kids to participate next year because this is just such a great opportunity and a lifetime experience. I am so very thankful to all the people who were a part of this process, and I can't wait to do D4K again next year!

# Dressage4Kids Clinic with Lendon Gray

Lendon Gray is an American dressage champion, author, and former rider of *Seldom Seen*. Generous, outspoken, and pragmatic, Lendon has devoted her energies to the improvement of all riders and all horses.





# DRESSAGE

*inside the Sandbox*





# Change this ONE thing for instant improvement in your riding.

By Amelia Newcomb

In Dressage especially, your thoughts define your reality. Because of this, mindset is EVERYTHING!

Recently, I had the chance to work with a world-renowned sports psychologist, Laura King.

A huge part of riding is mental. Really getting into the right headspace is the difference between having a good and productive ride and not having one!

We all have thoughts of self-doubt sometimes...

"I'm not a good enough rider."

"I wish I rode better."

"I can't do this."

"I'm not good enough..."

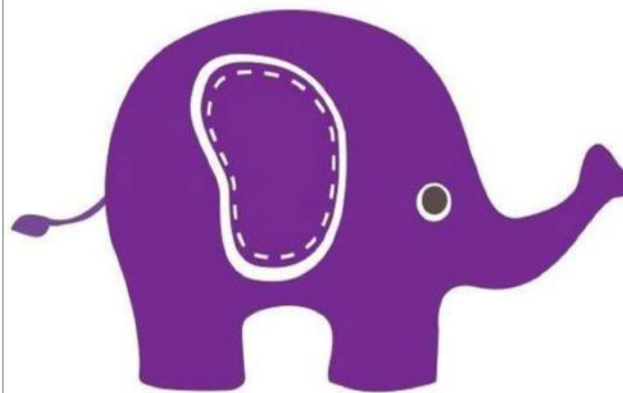
Or sometimes we obsess and get over-focused on a movement or an incident that occurred in the past... "What if my horse spooks?" "What if I can't get the right lead canter?" "What if I fall off and get hurt?"

These are all thoughts that all riders have at times, but dwelling on these thoughts is not helpful! This is where the purple elephant comes in!

The psychologist that I worked with, Laura King, recommended that anytime we have these negative and unproductive thoughts to **think of a purple elephant.**

Try it today! It really works!

Whenever you are having a bad thought, think of a purple elephant, then when the thought leaves,



replace the purple elephant with a different, positive thought.

**"I can do this!"**

**"I am a good rider!"**

**"I know I can ride that test!"**

**"I'm going to get on and get this done!"**

**"I love to ride, I'm going to enjoy my horse and my ride!"**

Getting this positive mindset is so important!

Happy riding!



# EVENTING

*3 times the fun*





# 2024 US Eventing Rule Change Proposal Comment Period Now Open

There are several rule change proposals being presented to the USEF that would go into effect on December 1, 2023 for the 2024 eventing season and it is now time for the membership to weigh in on these rule change proposals.

As a reminder, all rules for eventing are under the jurisdiction of the US Equestrian Federation (USEF) and the U.S. Eventing Association (USEA) only has the ability to put forth rule changes proposals for consideration by the USEF.

The online eventing rule change proposal comment portal is now open and the USEA encourages all members to participate in providing feedback on the 2024 rule change proposals.

Access the portal [here](#) and login using your USEA Online Services account.

The comment period ends on January 9, 2022, so be sure to submit your survey before that date.

USEA Annual Meeting & Convention attendees had the opportunity to discuss the rule change proposals in person at the annual Rule Change Open Forum. Read a recap of the meeting [here](#).

Questions about rule change proposals or the USEF Rules For Eventing? Email Sharon Gallagher, USEA Senior Director of Competitions, at [Sharon@useventing.com](mailto:Sharon@useventing.com).





# GDCTA BUSINESS

*a glimpse behind the curtain*

## 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](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>

## VOLUNTEERING 101

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



### WATCH & LEARN

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

### BE IN THE ACTION

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

### MAKE FRIENDS

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



### SUPPORT THE SPORT

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

### GOOD KARMA

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

For Information & To Sign Up

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

# GDCTA Board 2023

## OFFICERS

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

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

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

## YOUTH MEMBERS

Parker Mallernee  
Caroline McQueen

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





# Committees 2023

- 1) Nominating – 2 Non out going board members
- 2) Grievance – 2 VP's and only if there is a complaint.
- 3) Finance
  - a. Chair – Peter West
  - b. Sponsorship – Alexa Ryan-Oat
- 4) Awards
  - a. Grants –Janie Pride
- 5) Award Banquet
  - a. Chair – Caren Caverly
  - b. Silent Auction – Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
  - c. Barn Raffle – Jen Scherrens
- 6) Education
  - a. Chair – Julie Shannon
  - b. Clinics – Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse
  - c. Kudzu – Danielle Perry, Jenn Scherrens
  - d. USDF Education Program – Janie Pride
- 7) Youth
  - a. Chair – Joanne Morse, Abigail Kroupa
  - b. Schooling or Grassroots – Open
  - c. Recognized – Liz Molloy, Janie Pride
  - d. Collegiate – Amanda Garner
- 8) Communication
  - a. Chair – Joanne Morse
  - b. Yearbook – Penny Morse, June Brewer
  - c. Newsletter – Penny Morse, June Brewer
  - d. Website – June Brewer
  - e. Social Media – June Brewer, Abigail Kroupa
  - f. Membership – Mary Lou Freil
- 9) Show
  - a. Chair – Julie Shannon
  - b. Recognized – Caren Caverly
  - c. Schooling – Caren Caverly
    - 1 Horse Show Recognition – Carol Tresan
  - d. Regionals
    1. Chair – Caren Caverly
    2. Vendors – Open
    3. Hospitality – Abigail Kroupa, Danielle Perry
    4. Awards Chair – Peri Lambros
    5. Grounds – Open
  - e. Volunteer Coordinator – OPEN

## Newsletter Submission Guidelines

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

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

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

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

For print, only high resolution (300dpi) Jpeg or PDF files will be accepted.

Please submit electronically to [designonpenny@yahoo.com](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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## Awards Gala

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# our generous gifts!

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



## GOAT—Greatest Of All Time

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Joy  
Snow  
Family  
Believe  
Celebrate  
Traditions  
Jingle Bells  
Pumpkin Pie  
Baking Cookies  
White Christmas  
Season's Greetings





# Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association

Regular Meeting  
November 13, 2023

President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on November 13, 2023, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Secretary Ashley Boyd performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Abigail Kroupa, Joanne Morse, Ashley Boyd, Peter West, Lindsey Burns, Julie Shannon, Katie Patton, Liz Malloy, and Carol Tresan were present. The minutes of the regular meeting on October 16, 2023, were emailed to board members prior to meeting. Julie motioned to approve minutes, Liz seconded the minutes were passed by the board.

Caren asked if there were any nominations from the floor for elections 3 times. Nominations elections closed. All Officers were elected from the group. 3 new board members for two years each Liz Malloy, Lindsey Burns and Janie Pride.

**Treasurer's Report** – (Peter): October had a loss of about \$4600 mostly because of pre-paying for conferences coming up.

**VP Dressage Report** – (Abigail): Nothing to report working on clinics for next year.

**VP Combined Training** – (Joanne): We hosted two educational events this year. The first event was the Sara Kozumplik show jumping clinic that took place at Southern Oaks in Villa Rica, GA. We had 22 participants for that clinic and made a profit of \$385. The second event that we hosted was the Eventing Camp that took place at Chattahoochee Hills Eventing in Fairburn, GA. We expanded from last year and had 5 trainers and 50 rider spots. Four of those spots were sponsored. That clinic made a profit of \$3,932. Both of these profits are stated before taking into account credit card fees that were paid by doing registration through the website.

We plan to host two events next year as well. One regular clinic with the clinician TBD and the eventing camp. We hope to expand the eventing camp again for 2024 and add an additional trainer to the group and be able to take additional riders.

**Membership Report** – (Mary Lou): We have the highest numbers we have ever had. Current membership is 861 which is 2.1% more than last year. Discussion about how to connect with people whose membership has lapsed, beyond the emails that are already sent out.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communication** (Joanne): No report
- **Show Committee** (Julie): We did get approval for moving the USDF Labor Day Classic shows to Wills Park on the Summer Finals dates we already hold. 2024 will be GDCTA's 50th Anniversary. Caren proposed making the show also a big celebration with a party with food trucks, DJ, etc. We will need to work on getting sponsorships and vendors for the event. It will be discussed more at future meetings.
- **Finance** (Peter): No report
- **Youth Program** (Joanne):
  - Letterman applications coming in well. They are going to adjust the qualifications scores for intro a little bit. Liz reported about 20 applications for recognized Letterman Jacket.
  - The Letterman Program has shown a steady increase in interest since its inaugural year. We had 23 junior riders apply to the program for the 2022 awards year. That program had a profit of \$277. This profit is stated before taking into account the credit card fees that were paid by having members purchase their jackets and achievements through the website.
  - The 2023 awards year is on target to do the same as last year with more new jackets being awarded. Those final numbers will be available after the closing date on November 30.
  - Dressage for Kids had 12 clinic riders and 19 in festival.
  - Other positive reports on members competing in championship classes.
- **Awards** (Janie): no report
- **Education** (Julie): No report
- **Gala** (Caren): Renewed the click bid, please help get silent auction items. Julie and Katie are doing barn basket and need additional baskets from barns.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Email Blasts** – (Caren): Suggest checking their scores to finalize awards. Email will go out for invitations for winners. Renew membership.

## NEW BUSINESS

- New Member calls for December – Lacey
- Committees – 2024 - Caren announced that they will go over it at the next meeting and for people to think about them and how they can contribute.

Joanne motioned to adjourn. Julie seconded and board approved.

Next meeting is Holiday meeting on December 18, 2023, on Zoom at 7 pm





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

To find events online, go to [https://bit.ly/GDCTA\\_Events](https://bit.ly/GDCTA_Events)

## GDCTA Events

• <b>Dec 18</b> Christmas Meeting	Zoom	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net
• <b>Jan 20, 2024</b> Awards Gala	Alpharetta, GA	Caren Caverly	ccaverly@comcast.net

## GDCTA-Recognized Schooling Shows

(green=pending, black=approved, red=GDCTA hosted)

Caren Caverly, GDCTA AWARDS CHAIR  
Recognized & Schooling Shows  
ccaverly@comcast.net  
770-713-4025

2024 Show / Award Season		
<b>GDCTA</b>  <b>April 13-14 at Wills Park</b> <b>August 31-September 1 at GIHP</b>  The Lisa Seger Insurance AA Medal class (Training Level, Test 3) is offered on all dates.  <span style="color: red;">gdcta.wildapricot.org</span>	<b>Chattahoochee Hills Eventing at Bouckaert Farm</b>  9445 Browns Lake Road Fairburn, GA  <span style="color: green;">February 3</span> <span style="color: green;">April 6</span> <span style="color: green;">May 4</span> <span style="color: green;">June 8</span> <span style="color: green;">August 10</span> <span style="color: green;">September 7</span>  info@chatthillseventing.com 770-892-2117  chatthillseventing.com	<b>FCHP</b>  Full Circle Horse Park 5555 Wolf Creek Road Pell City, AL  <span style="color: green;">Mar 23, 2024</span>  Janice Ballard janice@fullcirclehorsepark.com 205-516-9052  Fullcirclehorsepark.com

## ORGANIZE A GDCTA 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>

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