

October 2024

Collected Remarks



Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association, Inc.

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Georgia Dressage & Combined Training Association

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ON THE COVER

Denise Garlinghouse on LIZZARD #SUPERMAN

Photo by Taylor Glatzer,
Custom Taylord Photography



Check us out

GDCTA.org

GMO

GROUP
MEMBER
ORGANIZATION

OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX



GDCTA Seeks a Volunteer Coordinator.

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

A Volunteer Coordinator helps organize all aspects of volunteering, from recruiting new volunteers to promoting opportunities for people who want more hours in their schedule for the volunteer program.

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

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

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

OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

Dear Members:

October is already going by too quickly. It's always a busy month for me with rider standings updates and answering questions around that plus tabulating the year-end award winners, but this year it feels even more like it's on fast-forward. Anyone else feeling that way?

We kicked off the 2025 award year with the Atlanta National Fall Dressage show at Wills Park on October 5-6. It was a small but fun show. Next year, we'll be back at the Georgia Horse Park in Conyers for this show and the GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage championship show.

The October 12 De-Spooking with Ed Dabney at Shannondale Farm in Milton was a huge success – so much so we had fireworks at the end. LOL We hope to have Ed back in the Spring.

Next up is the October 19-20 JJ Tate Dressage clinic at Noble Steeds in Canton. Auditors are encouraged to attend. The rider schedule is posted. You can sign up on the website <https://gdcta.org/event-5863815>

Members should have received an email on Monday, October 14th, with the links to the Board of Directors' election. Have you voted yet?

It is now Gala season! We are in the process of establishing eligibility in all the categories followed by tabulating the winners. It's a long process that we do as carefully as possible to avoid mistakes, but we are all human...

We have posted the schooling show rider standings to the website <https://gdcta.org/Awards>. You have until November 1 to check your eligibility and ask questions so that any errors are caught **before** we buy the ribbons.

As part of the Awards program, please note there have been changes to the Recognized Letterman Jacket Program. Please read the information on page 7 and get in touch with the appropriate program chairwoman.

Year-end Award Winner announcement emails will go out in December. Gala tickets will go on sale on or about December 15th.

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

Caren

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



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OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

LETTERMAN JACKET PROGRAM

for both USEF/USDF/USEA Recognized and Schooling Shows

Purpose:

To reward the student enrolled in school that is an equestrian athlete for their perseverance in their riding endeavors, this program wishes to acknowledge these youth riders' hard work and achievement throughout the levels.

Qualifications:

- Applicant must be a current GDCTA Member in the year in which scores are earned.
- Applicant is a Youth Rider **age of 22 or under** as of December 31, the year scores are earned.
- Applicant is concurrently enrolled in school/college with a **minimum of B or 3.0 average**. Proof of enrollment in school and student achievement is required (ie: report cards).
- Applicant must volunteer 8 hours through GDCTA or any non-profit, horse show, etc. Note that hours volunteered at GDCTA Hosted events will count double hours. Must submit a signed **Volunteer Credit Form**.



Update on Recognized Letterman Jacket Program:

We have worked hard to keep this program afloat as the joy on the faces of those earning their jackets and patches is a highlight of the Gala every year. Just like any business or family, sometimes budgets are tight and sometimes we can make it rain money (not actually, but one can dream). With two years of not hosting the region 3 dressage championships, we have had to tighten the purse strings. A strict budget may not be fun, but it does ensure the longevity of the club and the many ways we try

to enrich our Georgia horse community. We have long subsidized the recognized letterman program, but this year we can no longer absorb that cost. You will see a big jump in the price of the jackets, please know it is still not a profitable venture. This is a breakeven price. Turns out traditional letterman jackets are spendy. It is an absolute privilege for us to run this program and see our young equestrian athletes get recognized, and we hope to enjoy this program for years to come. We encourage our letterman athletes to get creative and earn some dollars to put towards their new jackets - bake sale, tack cleaning, mane pulling, arena mirror cleaning, etc. We will be happy to share their ventures to help spread the word.

To find the Letterman Jacket Applications, please visit the website <https://gdcta.org/Programs>



“Recognized” Program: Direct questions to Lacey Halstead wholehorsesaddlefit@gmail.com

“Schooling Show” Program: Direct questions to Joanne Morse joannemorse1@yahoo.com

SAVE *the* DATE



GDCTA AWARDS GALA
FEBRUARY 1, 2025

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

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

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

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

OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

Event Details:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Gala Committee

CHAIR Caren Caverly, ccaverly@comcast.net

GDCTA Election 2024

Your voice matters, and with important decisions on the horizon this coming year, it's time to make your choice count. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference.

Whether you're a Dressage enthusiast, Eventer or nonrider, you can be a champion of this organization by voting in this Board of Directors election! A GMO cannot work effectively if its members don't participate in the process. We can agree to disagree on many things, but let's at least agree on the importance of casting your vote. Can you promise that you will vote this year? All the cool kids are doing it!



Officer Candidates



President:
CAREN CAVERLY

Caren Caverly is a dedicated equestrian enthusiast and community leader known for her unwavering commitment to the dressage community. With a remarkable 17-year tenure on the GDCTA Board and an impressive 15-year stint as its President, Caren has been a driving force behind the organization's success. She also takes on crucial roles as Chairperson for GDCTA Insurance, Annual Awards Gala, the Year-End Awards, and the Sponsorship Committee.

Caren's equestrian journey spans an impressive nearly 60 years, with the last 18 years passionately focused on the art of dressage. She shares a special bond with her horse, Solant, who has retired gracefully. Her extensive experience in the saddle, coupled with her leadership within GDCTA, has earned her deep respect within the equestrian community.

Beyond her equestrian pursuits, Caren boasts a diverse professional background. She served as the Manager and Buyer at Tack Tavern for 8 ½ years, followed by a successful 15-year tenure in the automotive industry. Additionally, she brought her expertise to Dover Saddlery, where she served as Assistant Manager for 8 years. Her wealth of knowledge extends to being a Level 3 Show Manager and a "r" Technical Delegate (TD).

Caren's impact on GDCTA is profound. She proposed and managed the 2009-2024 Schooling Shows at Wills Park and the Georgia International Horse Park, showcasing her organizational prowess. After Sandy Donovan's retirement in 2020, she took on the management of GDCTA Recognized shows, ensuring continuity and excellence.

Caren has ambitious goals for GDCTA's future. She aims to bring the Region 3 Championships back to Conyers on a regular basis, creating a vibrant and successful championship event. Additionally, she seeks to expand the already thriving Awards Gala and enhance the organization's educational offerings and junior activities. As President, Caren is steadfast in her personal goal to make GDCTA the premier GMO (Group Member Organization) in the country, setting the gold standard that others look up to as an example of excellence in equestrian community management.

OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

Caren Caverly's dedication, passion, and leadership have left an indelible mark on GDCTA and the equestrian community as a whole. Her vision and unwavering commitment continue to shape the future of dressage and equestrianism in the region.



VP Dressage:

LINDSEY BURNS

Lindsey Burns is a dressage trainer specializing in building confidence in horses and humans. Most of the time you'll find her working with young horses, from their first rides to first competitions. She trained GDCTA's champion young horse of the year in both 2022 and 2023. Her equestrian background is varied ranging from endurance racing, exercise riding at the track, eventing through preliminary, successfully competing through PSG dressage, competing in 2-,4-, and 8-person musical freestyles, coaching pony club, managing the horses for a therapeutic riding program, and constantly seeking to develop the 'horsemanship' side of her education. She has also competed multiple times at the RRP Thoroughbred makeover and in 2019 was a finalist

for the Ira Schulman Award for successfully rehoming thoroughbreds when they are ready to retire from racing. Lindsey also holds a bachelor's in Biology-human emphasis. She has served on the board of Idaho Dressage and Eventing Association Les Bois Chapter as a junior representative, secretary, and vice president, before moving to Georgia full time in 2019. She spent the last two years as a GDCTA board member and has loved the experience, building connections with our incredible horse community. A follower of the adage that our current success is built on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, Lindsey is a big believer in giving back to her equestrian community as thanks for the many opportunities it has afforded her.



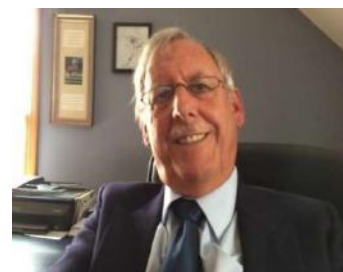
VP Eventing:

JOANNE MORSE (Maton)

I am an equestrian professional that actively competes, teaches, and trains within the equine industry. I personally am most involved in Dressage and Eventing in different ways. It has been my goal over the past several years to grow as a well-rounded professional within our industry and that continues to be my goal each year. I have been a board member for GDCTA since 2017. In 2019 I was voted in as the VP of Combined Training for the club. During that time, I have organized many clinics and in 2022 we hosted our first eventing camp that has grown over the past 3 years. My aim is to continue to use my knowledge of our sport to support our

membership in their journey with their equine partners.

Treasurer:



PETER WEST

Peter West is the founder and Managing Partner of Radix Consulting Inc., a full-service firm providing business consulting services with its office located in Atlanta Georgia. Peter serves as a board member of three other companies.

Previous and for over 25 years, Peter was President and CEO of Canuck Industries Inc., a diverse private corporation consisting of an airfreight service division and three manufacturing and distribution facilities of aluminium products for home construction in the United States and Canada.

A University of British Columbia grad with a Bachelor of Commerce degree, Peter earned his Chartered Accountant (CPA) designation with a major CPA firm in Vancouver B.C. He left public practice and joined ITT Rayonier where he started in their tax division, moved to Business Planning and in 1977 transferred to Atlanta

OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

Georgia where he became their Director of Southeast Operations. While with ITT he undertook the EMBA program at the Wharton School of Business at The University of Pennsylvania.

Peter is married to Teresa and has two children. Son Chris is married with two children; and daughter Karen has been an avid dressage rider and competitor for a number of years.



Recording Secretary:

ASHLEY BOYD

Ashley began competing horses in Georgia 39 years ago when she was 5 years old. Since then, she has competed many horses in the area and has attended recognized and schooling shows throughout the state. Ashley's primary discipline is eventing, but also has developed a passion for dressage. Recently her primary focus has become the breeding program of Trakehner horses for eventing and dressage that she and her husband run.

After having ridden horses for many years, Ashley still gets teary eyed every single time when driving the trailer to a show. She says, When I am at a horse show surrounded by my friends and peers it is when I feel the most like myself and it feels like home. I love every aspect of it from the organizers, volunteers, announcers, judges, officials, spectators, and the many friends I have made throughout the years.

Ashley has also seen the very real and difficult side of horses. Having had a string of bad luck that many of her peers have also experienced in this profession, she has become equally passionate about sharing about the mental health issues that many riders face. Ashley's goal with that is to make sure that people never feel alone in their struggles.



Corresponding Secretary:

CAROL TRESAN

Carol grew up with all kinds of animals. Her mother ran a riding stable, and together they trained and campaigned Welsh ponies and cobs in the breed ring, competing in English, Western, Carriage driving and Trail classes. Their goal was always the Versatility award, which demonstrated their ability to master several disciplines. They also competed their ponies in Combined Training and Combined Driving. Carol was active in her local Pony Club. When Carol outgrew the ponies, she got an OTTB named Rapid Falls and continued up through the levels of eventing. Carol moved to Atlanta to be the Event Director of the

Foxhall Cup CCI***, the National Championship of Eventing, and the final selection site for the Olympic team. She married Greg in 2002 and together they operate Animal Casting Atlanta, the number one provider of animals for movies and television in the southeast. Carol has over 30 years' experience training animals for films ranging from a tiny hamster to a 1,500-pound Clydesdale. She owns Flying Colors Farm, breeding and training horses from miniatures through her gentle giant draft horses. She competes with her Friesian Sport Horses in dressage and eventing.

Carol is most proud of her daughter Devon, who competes in eventing with her as well as Pony Club rallies! Carol is currently on the Board of Directors and is Chair of the GDCTA-Recognition Committee. She volunteers for the GDCTA at shows and events as well as other local events including Chatt Hills and Poplar Place.

OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

At Large Candidates *(select 3 from this list)*



NOEL MUEHLBAUER

My name is Noel Muehlbauer, and I am a professional dressage rider, trainer, and coach in the North Atlanta area under my personal brand, N M Dressage, LLC. Recently, I graduated from USDF's L Education Program with distinction. My past education includes graduating from Averett University with a degree in Equine Management and Dressage Training. While I attended Averett, I also received my American Riding Instructor Certification (ARIA) as a Level 2

Dressage Instructor. Additionally, I was captain of our Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA) team for two years. During this time, the team won the title of Reserve National Champion, and I personally received the title of Upper Training National Champion in 2019. My riding career also includes receiving both my USDF Bronze and Silver medals. Growing up in the Atlanta area, riding organizations like GDCTA were always such an important part of my childhood. Now, I am looking forward to using my education both in and out of the arena to help better serve the members of GDCTA!



DANIELLE PERRY

I have been riding since I was a little 5-year-old girl. If it had 4 hooves and a tail, I rode it! I've been a dressage rider since I came to GA in 2003. It's been an awesome journey of meeting new and exciting horses and becoming deeply ingrained in their care and training as a rider, trainer, and USEF level 2 judge. Developing my clients into true horse masters has been a rewarding experience when their eyes light up with an epiphany about their horse and themselves. I have my USDF Bronze and Silver Medals on horses I trained. I also have 1 more score to get my USDF Gold medal. I'm so excited to be part of the horse community and give back through being a board member on the GDCTA GMO. I enjoy getting input from the membership and finding creative ways to make the club the best it can be for the

riders and their very important horses – in all the disciplines! I am also a corporate executive and have been a leader/manager in the IT Industry for 20 years.



ANNMARIE STOCKINGER

Annamarie Stockinger is an adult amateur equestrian with a passion for dressage, currently focusing on training and competing with her three horses. Starting her riding career with thoroughbreds, she has since expanded her string, to include a quarter horse and a warmblood. A testament to her dedication, last year she and her 21-year-old quarter horse, previously trained in reining, qualified for regionals after retraining him in dressage. With a degree in mathematics, Annmarie combines her analytical mindset with a commitment to making technology a force for good. Professionally, Annmarie leads the customer experience analytics team at Zendesk, leveraging over 8 years of experience in analytics across major tech companies, including Mailchimp and Vimeo. She specializes in leading global, remote teams,

with a focus on helping people thrive in the ever-evolving tech landscape. Believing in the critical role of amateurs in the equestrian sport, Annmarie is dedicated to increasing engagement within the local amateur community, helping to ensure its growth and success.

Interested in being part of the GDCTA Board of Directors but have time constraints? Consider joining one of our numerous committees – we always need help! Contact President Caren Caverly (ccaverly@comcast.net / 770-713-4025).

OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX



GDCTA presents

JJ Tate Dressage Clinic

October 19-20, 2024

Noble Steeds LLC
3452 Arbor Hill Rd
Canton, GA 30115

GDCTA.org



Shows-Clinics-Sales-Lessons

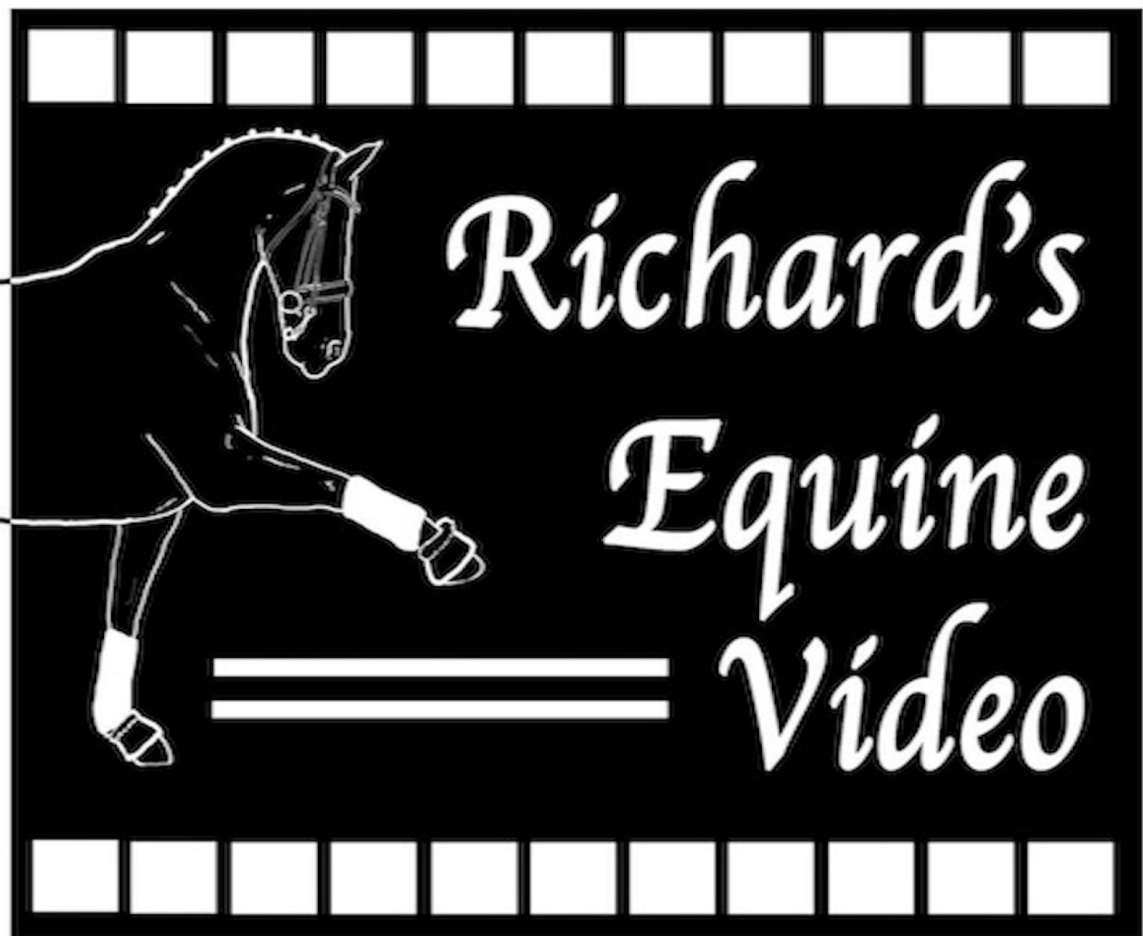
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US Dressage Finals
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Dressage at Devon
GDCTA Shows
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OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

Fearless Equines: A De-Spooking Experience with Ed Dabney

By Abi Kroupa



Photo by Laura King

These brave horses and riders conquered the Spooky Season 🎃 today with Ed Dabney at Shannondale Farm. ❤️

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Ed Dabney de-spooking clinic. Enrique was a super boy and we also learned a lot to now be able to work on de-spooking the right way at home. I wanted to do this clinic because I know my boy can be noise sensitive. This was a great way for him to build his trust and confidence in me as his leader and work towards a better partnership in the arena 🍀❤️

Every great production ends with a fireworks portion, right?! The Grand Finale was loud~

Thank you to Julie Varellas Shannon for hosting, Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association for allowing me to organize it, and Ed Dabney for your endless knowledge! Also, a big thank you to Laura King

for all of your help and being a great cheerleader for all of us in the ring 🥰

We can't wait to have Ed back in the spring! See you there!

"It truly was a great clinic! I learned a lot as an auditor! And always love cheering on my friends ❤️❤️"

-Laura King

"It was spooky! Our toolbox is full of new tricks! Thank you GDCTA, Shannondale Farm and Ed Dabney!"

-Helena Stokes

"So happy I attended this very informative clinic; I have so much to work on to continue to bond and build a trusting relationship with my new partner, Oscar! Thank you GDCTA for hosting and planning, Ed Dabney was awesome!"

-Lou Roth

GAIG/USDF REGION 3 DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

OCTOBER 3-5, 2025

GDC TA.org

ENTERTAINMENT

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

CONTACT

Caren Caverly admin@gdcta.org



OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX

How I Used My GDCTA Training Grant

By Eliza Fountain

Thank you GDCTA for awarding me this training grant! After learning that I had received a grant, I immediately started searching for a clinic or other educational experience to spend the money. I soon found Lendon Gray's Dressage4Kids 2-day TEAM clinic and festival where I was able to further develop my skills, make new friends, and take my new horse, Fury, off property for the first time.



At the clinic, I worked with Lendon and Rachel Chowanec-Kaney to prepare me to compete at 3rd level and above. Specifically, I worked on movements that would be useful to earn my bronze medal. Lendon and Rachel were fun to work with and excited to challenge me and my horse, Fury. During the D4K clinic I met many other riders. On the second day, a girl named Ava and her mom came over to Fury's stall. They recognized Fury as they had seen him when they bought their horse, Fay. Ava and I hit it off right from the start. I'm excited that I'm going back to another D4K clinic that will be hosted at Ava's family farm in October. The TEAM clinic environment was incredible and allowed me to make connections with other riders also interested in dressage. The GDCTA training grant funded a

memorable experience that I otherwise would not have attended.



I'm glad that I decided to stay for the festival the day after the clinic. The festival challenged me through required readings, equitation, team competition, and showing Fury for the first time. I am so incredibly grateful to GDCTA and D4K for giving me an opportunity to grow in my riding journey.

THE GDCTA TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM *provides educational opportunities to members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to and/or excellence in the sport as well as service and ambassadorship within the Association. GDCTA Members can apply for the Training Grants from February 1 through June 1 each year.*

Details: <https://gdcta.org/Programs>

DRESSAGE

Congratulations to the Lisa Seger Insurance High Point winners at the Atlanta Fall National Dressage I show! Well done! 🏆🏆🏆

Training Level

- AA Kimberly Pressley on Pistol EM Charmed 73.462%
- Open Kim Sosebee on Quinn 74.808%

First Level

- JR/YR Caitlyn Cook on Lute and Sweet 65.185%
- AA Rebecca Lynn Vendryes on Big Bear's History 66.481%

Second Level

- AA Deb Grosenbaugh on Starry Night 64.881%
- Open Kim Sosebee on Raaf C 72.286%

Third Level

- AA Deb Grosenbaugh on Starry Night 62.625%

Fourth Level

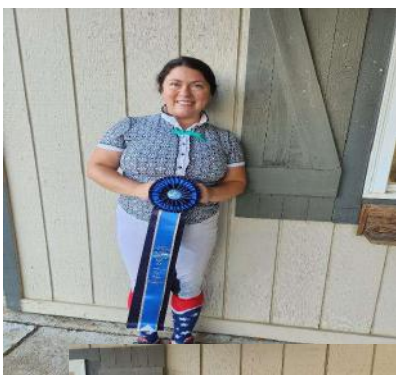
- AA Sydney Matyczynski on La Coeur 61.389%
- Open Madison Lareau on Don Derico 74.029%

FEI Levels

- AA Lucy DesPortes on Winchester 64.853%
- Open Marjolein Geven on Junior STH 69.265%

We want to add Congratulations to our additional Special Awards winners!

- T.I.P. (Thoroughbred Incentive Program) I
 - Caitlyn Cook & Lute and Sweet 300044776 65.185%
- Vintage Adult High Point Award (50+) sponsored by The Harbin Agency
 - AA Deb Grosenbaugh & Starry Night 64.881%
 - Open Marjolein Geven & Junior STH 69.265%
- National Dressage Pony Cup
 - High Point Kimberly Pressley & Pistol EM Charmed 73.462%
 - Reserve Katherina Huenermann KML Maximus 68.400%

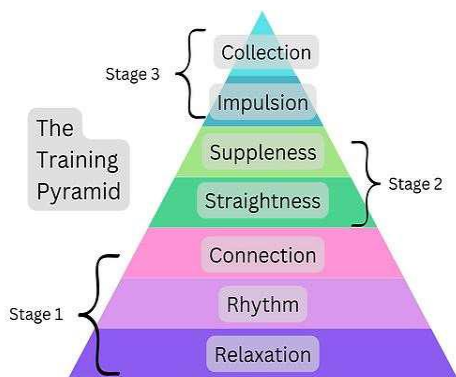


Renvers to the Rescue: Hips Don't Lie

By June Brewer with a little help from AI and a lot of help from Chris Erbskorn

My journey with the dressage pyramid has been up and down, but I've been fortunate enough to have a lot of expert instruction along the way. As Roo and I have progressed in our training, I've come to recognize the point in the pyramid that slows us down again and again - straightness.

Straightness, which refers to the horse's ability to travel with equal balance and symmetry, is vital for all movements, from basic transitions to advanced lateral work. So we work on this often. One movement that often comes to the rescue in the path toward straightness is the renvers. At this point I should tell you that renvers is one of Chris Erbskorn's favorite moves for Roo and me. And after all the times I've been told to use renvers, I still forget to try it first to correct any issues in a given day.



Renvers helps develop the horse's suppleness, strength, and balance while allowing the rider to refine their position and aids, or so they say. I would have to say it's an easy move for me going left, really hard to the right. The issue is MY straightness or, rather, my difficulty with my position in that direction.

What Is Renvers?

Renvers is a lateral dressage movement closely related to shoulder-in and travers (haunches-in). However, unlike shoulder-in, where the horse's shoulders come off the track while maintaining a bend toward the inside, or travers, where the horse bends around the rider's inside leg with the haunches coming off the track, renvers involves bending the horse around the

rider's outside leg. In a correctly ridden renvers, the horse's shoulders move to the inside, off the rail, while the haunches continue to travel along the rail. This movement encourages engagement of the hindquarters, the gymnasticizing of the horse's body, and above all, improves straightness by addressing imbalances and resistance.

How Renvers Improves Straightness

Straightness in dressage is not about the horse traveling in a perfectly straight line but rather ensuring the horse uses both sides of its body evenly and carries itself symmetrically. Horses, like humans, are naturally one-sided, or "crooked." They tend to favor one direction, often stiff on one side and more flexible on the other. This natural imbalance affects their ability to bend, balance, and respond evenly to aids. *Same for people!*

Renvers comes to the rescue by correcting this asymmetry in the following ways:

1. **Even Weight Distribution:** Renvers encourages the horse to shift its weight equally onto both hind legs. This helps develop the weaker hind leg, building strength and engagement necessary for straightness.
2. **Suppleness:** By working the horse on a bend opposite to the natural tendency, renvers stretches and loosens the stiff side. This gymnastic exercise helps improve the horse's lateral flexibility and overall suppleness.
3. **Improved Balance:** Renvers requires the horse to remain balanced while traveling on a bend and engaging the hindquarters. This balance, coupled with proper rider alignment, helps prevent the horse from falling in or out through the shoulders or hips.
4. **Alignment of the Shoulders and Haunches:** Because renvers teaches the horse to carry its shoulders slightly to the inside while bending

DRESSAGE

around the outside leg, it realigns the front and hind ends, working toward true straightness.

Key Exercises to Develop Straightness with Renvers

Renvers, when combined with other lateral exercises such as shoulder-in, travers, and leg yield, can help gymnastize the horse and improve straightness. Here are a few exercises to try:

1. Alternating Shoulder-In to Renvers:

- Begin in a shoulder-in on the long side of the arena.
- At the midpoint, transition to renvers without losing the forward rhythm or connection.
- This quick change of bend engages the horse's hindquarters and forces it to stay straight between the aids while remaining supple through the body.

2. Renvers on a Circle: (one of my favorites – still incredibly hard at times, though)

- Ride a 10- or 15-meter circle and ask for renvers positioning by bringing the horse's shoulders slightly in while maintaining the haunches on the circle line.
- This exercise will help the horse balance and improve engagement while traveling on a curved line.

3. Travers to Renvers on a Diagonal Line:

- Start on a diagonal line in travers (haunches in) and halfway through, switch to renvers.
- This encourages the horse to bend in both directions and maintain balance and engagement, while also promoting straightness across the diagonal.

4. Serpentine with Renvers:

- Ride a three-loop serpentine, asking for renvers as you cross the centerline on each loop.
- The constant changes in direction and bend will challenge the horse to stay supple and balanced, improving both straightness and agility.

Rider Position in Renvers

While renvers is an invaluable exercise for the horse, its effectiveness depends largely on the rider's position and aids. Here's how to correctly position yourself for success:

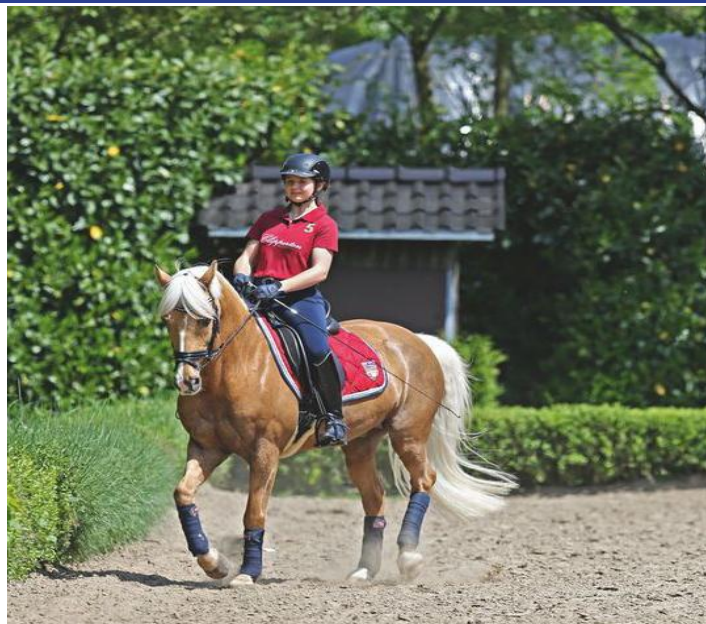
1. **Correct Alignment:** The rider must stay centered and balanced in the saddle. The shoulders should mirror the horse's shoulders, and the hips should mirror the horse's hips. This alignment helps the rider remain in sync with the horse's movements.
2. **Outside Leg Position:** The outside leg is critical in renvers, as it creates the bend and controls the horse's hindquarters. The outside leg should be slightly behind the girth to encourage the bend and prevent the haunches from drifting out.
3. **Inside Rein and Outside Rein:** The inside rein maintains a soft connection to help guide the shoulders in. However, the outside rein is the dominant rein in renvers, as it controls the bend and ensures the horse doesn't overbend or lose balance.
4. **Seat and Core Engagement:** The rider's seat and core must remain engaged throughout the movement. The rider should sit evenly on both seat bones, with a slight emphasis on the outside seat bone to support the bend. Core engagement is crucial to maintaining balance and transmitting clear aids to the horse.
5. **Soft and Supple Hands:** The hands should be quiet and steady, ensuring a soft connection with the horse's mouth. Overusing the reins can lead to stiffness and resistance, so the rider

DRESSAGE

must rely on seat and leg aids to influence the horse.

Conclusion

Renvers is a powerful tool in the dressage rider's toolbox, capable of addressing the natural crookedness in horses while improving balance, suppleness, and strength. When performed correctly, it not only helps gymnastize the horse but also refines the rider's position and coordination. By incorporating renvers into your training routine alongside other lateral work, you'll develop a straighter, more balanced horse ready to tackle movements with ease. Remember: hips don't lie, and renvers will ensure your horse's hips are always telling the truth.



THE ART OF RIDING, THE SENSITIVITY TO AND AWARENESS OF HARMONY, EVEN THE DESIRE FOR IT, CANNOT BE TAUGHT, MERELY INSPIRED IN OTHERS.

- CHARLES DE KUNFFY

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Register Today! Two Months Until the 2024 USEA Annual Meeting & Convention

By **Kaleigh Collett** - USEA Staff | Press Release



Rachel Jones/Visit Seattle Convention Services photo

Registration is now open for the 2024 USEA Annual Meeting & Convention, which will take place in the Pacific Northwest in just under two months at The Westin Seattle in Seattle, Washington, on Dec. 12-15! Experience the natural beauty of the Emerald City and take in iconic landmarks like the Space Needle and Pike Place Market, while connecting with fellow eventing enthusiasts during engaging seminars and meetings. Click <https://useventing.com/membership/convention/convention-registration> to secure your spot at this year's convention.

There are several registration types to consider for this year's event, but the most cost-effective option that will give you access to all open meetings Thursday through Saturday and includes one ticket to the Annual Meeting of Members Luncheon on Saturday is a full convention pass. Full convention passes are \$275 per person for Full or Life USEA members or \$150 for Junior and Collegiate USEA members if purchased during the early-bird window, which closes on Dec. 11. On Dec. 12, prices will increase to \$290 for Full or Life members or \$175 for Junior and Collegiate members, so don't wait to submit your registration!

If you can't make it for the whole event, single day passes are also available for purchase. On Thursday and Friday, single day passes are \$150 per day, and a Saturday pass can be purchased for \$175. Are you interested

EVENTING

in attending Chris Barnard and Marc Donovan's Show Jumping Course Design Seminar on Thursday? Individual tickets to this seminar can be purchased separately for \$50 per person.

If you're looking to add some fun to your experience, you won't want to miss the special events! The Annual Meeting of Members Luncheon will return on Saturday, Dec. 14, and while every full convention pass includes one ticket to this event, additional tickets for the luncheon can be purchased at \$75 per person.

The provisional schedule can be viewed here: <https://useventing.com/membership/convention/convention-schedule>, and it is jam packed with can't miss educational opportunities. Start planning your must-attend sessions, like the keynote address, which will be given by eventer, trainer, author, and this year's Road the Horse Champion, Tik Maynard, during the Annual Meeting of Members Luncheon on Saturday, Dec. 14. Other notably exciting sessions include the USEA Annual Awards, the Show Jumping Seminar with Marc Donovan and Chris Barnard, and several educational talks from our USEA Partners. The Convention will also host two meetings of the USEA Board of Governors, the first of which will be hosted on Thursday afternoon and the second will cap off the weekend of events on Sunday, Dec. 15.

New this year, the USEA Annual Awards Banquet will be hosted as a luncheon as on Friday, Dec. 13, to give attendees more opportunities to see the sites of Seattle in the evenings. Awards lunch tickets must be purchased for \$100 per person. Tables for eight or 10 people are also available for \$800 or \$1,000, respectively.

Last but not least, the USEA will be hosting its first ever charity Poker Tournament during the Area VII Welcome Reception and Bingo Night! The Poker Tournament and Welcome Reception will take place on Friday, Dec. 13 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and buy-in for the event is \$125 per person. Participants will have the option to add-on to their buy-in price in \$25 increments as well. Enjoy some healthy competition with friends to support the USEA Foundation! If poker isn't your thing, try your luck at Area VII's Bingo Night, followed by live karaoke starting at 8:30 p.m. PT.

Is your company interested in being a vendor at this year's convention? Download the vendor application, or email Jennifer Hardwick at jennifer@useventing.com for more information.

Save money by reserving a room at The Westin Seattle through the USEA room block. After Nov. 19, the USEA room block rate will expire and rates will increase. Availability is limited, so reserve your room at the discounted \$179 rate today.

Take advantage of your USEA Member Rewards Program by signing up and using TripPlanet for your next travel booking. Login or create your account today at app.tripplanet.com/enrollment/invite/USEA to start saving! Additional travel rewards options can be found here: <https://useventing.com/membership/member-rewards>

Click here <https://useventing.com/membership/convention/convention-registration> to complete your registration. If you have any questions about the 2024 USEA Annual Meeting & Convention, please contact Jennifer Hardwick, by email at Jennifer@useventing.com or by phone (703) 779-0440, ext. 3003.

About the USEA Annual Meeting & Convention

The USEA Annual Meeting & Convention takes place each December and brings together a large group of dedicated USEA members and supporters to discuss, learn, and enjoy being surrounded by other eventing

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EVENTING

enthusiasts. The USEA organizes multiple seminars in addition to committee meetings, open forums, and tons of fun! The 2024 USEA Annual Meeting & Convention will take place in Seattle, Washington, on Dec. 12—15.

The USEA would like to thank the USEA Annual Meeting & Convention Sponsors: Adequan, ARMA, Bates Saddles, D.G. Stackhouse & Ellis, Horse & Country, Kerrits, Nunn Finer, Nutrena, Parker Equine Insurance, PulseVet Shock Wave, Rebecca Farm, RevitaVet, Ride iQ, Schneiders Saddlery, SmartPak, Standlee, and World Equestrian Brands.



GDCTA Board 2024

OFFICERS

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

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Lindsey Burns
Lacey Halstead
Liz Molloy
Janie Pride
Danielle Perry
Julie Shannon

YOUTH MEMBERS

TBA

*The 2024 Board was seated at the
January 15th meeting*



Committees 2024

- 1) Nominating – 2 Non outgoing board members.
- 2) Grievance – 2 VP's and only if there is a complaint.
- 3) Finance
 - a. Chair – Peter West
 - b. Sponsorship – Caren Caverly
- 4) Awards -
 - a. Grants –Janie Pride
- 5) Award Banquet -
 - a. Chair – Caren Caverly
 - b. Silent Auction – Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa & Lacey Halstead
 - c. Barn Raffle – Julie Shannon & Katie Patton
- 6) Education –
 - a. Chair – Julie Shannon
 - b. Clinics – Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
 - c. Kudzu – Danielle Perry & Lacey Halstead
 - d. L Program – Marian Bickers
- 7) Youth -
 - a. Chair – Joanne Morse, Abigail Kroupa
 - b. Schooling or Grassroots – **Open**
 - c. Recognized – Liz Molloy, Janie Pride
 - d. Collegiate – Amanda Garner
- 8) Communication -
 - a. Chair – Joanne Morse
 - b. Yearbook – Penny Morse, June Brewer
 - c. Newsletter – Penny Morse, June Brewer
 - d. Website – June Brewer
 - e. Social Media – June Brewer, Abigail Kroupa
 - f. Membership – Mary Lou Freil
- 9) Show –
 - a. Chair – Julie Shannon
 - b. Recognized – Caren Caverly
 - c. Schooling – Caren Caverly
 - 1 Horse Show Recognition – Carol Tresan
 - d. Volunteer Coordinator – **Open**
 - e. 50th Anniversary - **Open**

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

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

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

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

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

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

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

DISCLOSURE

- Complete GDCTA Board of Directors meeting minutes are available upon request to the Recording Secretary.
- Financial records are available upon written request to the Treasurer.
- For information regarding Awards, Show Recognition, Membership, Education, or the Web Site, contact the appropriate chairperson on the website Contact Us page.

Thank you for you

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

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Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association

Regular Meeting
July 15, 2024

President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on July 15, 2024, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

VP of Combined Training, Joanne Morse, performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse, Peter West, Lindsey Burns, Danielle Perry, Liz Molloy, and Carol Tresan were present. The minutes of the regular meeting June 17, 2024, were emailed to board members prior to meeting. Lindsey made a motion to accept the June minutes. Joanne seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – (Peter): Month of June was a good month. We made a nice profit off camp to bring us back into the green.

VP Dressage Report – (Abigail): No report

VP Combined Training – (Joanne): Young Rider Champs were this month, and our one-star team were silver medalists. We are very proud of them and were proud to be supporters of this team and the Young Rider Program.

Membership Report – (Mary Lou): Membership is down on everything except junior dressage riders. Attributing this to the second year in a row of not having the USDF Regional Championship show.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communication** (Joanne): Anniversary newsletter just went out. July and August will be a joint issue.
- **Show Committee** (Julie): Trying to get the park manager to put the permanent shelters out for the judges for the August dressage show. The concession was going to cater the anniversary dinner, but they cannot do that and concession. We are looking for a new caterer for the dinner.

We have 8 entries so far for this show. L program is happening during this show, and we have 7 candidates testing. We will need 2 scribes for the instructors.

- **Finance** (Peter): Cash flow this time of year is low. Board members are strongly encouraged to help with sponsors for the shows to help with the slow time of year. We did a Budweiser fundraiser that was very successful at Chantele's. All funds raised were split between GDCTA and the Wills Park Foundation.
- **Youth Program** (Joanne): D4K we have 6 kids coming from the Cayman Islands. Their govt is sponsoring them. They also have a new East Coast Championship with a high point award. For NAYC we have 4 GDCTA members that have made the team. Liz made a motion that we offer them the option to apply for the travel grant. Danielle seconded this motion. Discussion followed. Travel grants approved.
- **Awards** (Janie): Janie announced the grant winners for this year. We had several great applicants this year.
- **Education** (Julie): Ed Dabney and JJ Tate clinics coming up.
- **Gala** (Caren): Feb 1, 2025, is the date.
- **Nominating**: Collecting bios from all people wanting to run in the 2024 election.

OLD BUSINESS

Email Blasts – (Caren): D4K, Dog Days show, 50th anniversary

NEW BUSINESS

- **New member welcome for August**: Joanne

The organizer for Oxer Farm sent in a letter to Caren making a request for her show. The board listened to the request and discussed thoroughly and kindly declined to approve.

Janie motioned to adjourn. Lindsey seconded and the board voted to accept the motion.

Next meeting is August 19, 2024, on Zoom at 7 pm



NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

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

webmaster@gdcta.org

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

GDCTA.org/advertise

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

- *The advertisements contained herein are paid advertisements.*
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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>



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



2024

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| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

DECEMBER

| SU | MO | TU | WE | TH | FR | SA |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |