

May/June 2024



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Connecticut Dressage Association

President's Message

Greetings!

Wow, since our last newsletter we have been busy!!!! CDA hit the ground running this spring, having hosted our spring virtual schooling show, our ever-popular ride- critique-ride clinic with Bobbi Carleton, our first USDF Instructor Trainer Development Program seminar, the first of 5 CDA sponsored schooling shows, and a 2-day biomechanics clinic with Virginia Leary. Your interest and participation make these events so successful and fun!!!

We posted a recap on our website of the lungeing clinic with Ann Guptill and Vicki Hammers-O'Neil that was held at Fox Ledge Farm. If you are interested in auditing or participating in either of the next two segments of the USDF Instructor-Trainer Development Program, you can find registration information on www.ctdressage.org.

A big thank you to Paige Rollinson who jumped in to take over the back-end management of our website. We are so thankful and grateful to Elizabeth Allwein, who volunteered in that role for several years and just recently needed to step down. It requires a set of skills that not many of us have and the generosity of these ladies to share their time, and talent is humbling.

As always, anyone is welcome to join our monthly meeting in Cheshire either in person or via zoom. Please contact Fern Feldman at fernfeldman@gmail.com if you would like to attend. I am always available at hanna@nantucketblonde.com or 203-415-1522--- feel free to reach out!

Stay safe, have fun, and enjoy your amazing equine partners!

Warmly,
Hanna Calcagni

"Life is like a dressage test. If you're too busy thinking about your last move, the next one won't be any good either."

Unknown

2024 CDA Sponsored Clinics

Ride-Critique-Ride
Hosted by Sperry View Farm
With Bobbi Carleton
April 20-21, 2024

The RCR clinic with Bobbi Carlton was once again a huge success. There were 10 horse and rider pair each day. As always, Bobbi's comments were constructive and positive. Most riders rode their test once and then used the remainder of time for as a clinic session.

Pictured here from left to right are Heather Sweeney, Bobbi Carlton, and Megan Clarke (scribe).



Upcoming Clinic

Lisa Schmidt
Hosted by Idlenot Farm
July 27, 2024
[Click Here for Registration Form](#)

USDF Instructor-Trainer Development Program

The Connecticut Dressage Association (CDA) continues the Dressage Development Seminars, open to all!

This program is designed to educate dressage riders of all levels--both amateurs and professionals who wish to further their education in the classical system of dressage.

For each seminar, **Day 1** is geared toward a **general audience and large group and features lecture and demonstration rides under the guidance and instruction by the two clinicians**. It is a unique opportunity to watch, listen, and learn as the training scale and principles of dressage are analyzed.

Day 2 is limited to 8 participants and is geared toward those who, in a more 'hands-on' situation--may be **interested in furthering their professional development and eventually moving on to certification**.

Seminar dates are:

- **July 14-15** (Sunday/Monday) **Riding Seminar**; with **Bill McMullin** and **Vicki Hammers-O'Neil** at **Weatogue Stables, Salisbury, CT**

- **August 10-11** (Saturday/Sunday) **Teaching Seminar**; with **Bill McMullin** and **Sarah Geikie** at **Sperry View Farm, Bethany, CT**

For questions, registration, and info, please contact: **Christine Engel** at christineengel923@gmail.com or (860)485-8842

Summary of Lungeing Seminar with Ann Guptill and Vicki Hammers-O'Neil

Many thanks to the Connecticut Dressage Association and Fox Ledge Farm for hosting the USDF Instructor/Trainer Development Program Lungeing Seminar. This is the first seminar in the series of 3 that are being run by CDA with the support of The Dressage Foundation. The other two: the Riding Seminar will be July 14-15 at Weatogue Stables, and the Teaching Seminar will be August 10-11 at Sperry View Stables. For further information, contact Christine Engel, christineengel923@gmail.com.

This first seminar's atmosphere fostered a positive learning environment for all attendees throughout both days.

The seminar focused on consistency and clarity of communication as the keys to confidence building for horses and riders. The safety and welfare of the participants, horses, and riders remained paramount.

On Day 1, USDF Instructor/Trainer and Faculty members Ann Guptill and Vicki Hammers-O'Neil presented, demonstrated, and discussed the classical theory and fundamentals of lungeing the horse and lungeing the rider on the horse. The auditors were very comfortable sharing experiences and asking questions during every session which laid the groundwork for Day 2.



The atmosphere on Day 2 continued with consistent and easygoing communication among the organizers, seminar leaders, participants, horses, and riders from the very beginning.

Each participant had two hands-on sessions. One with Ann and another with Vicki. The morning session was spent lungeing the horse while the afternoon session added lungeing a rider on the same horse used in the morning. These structured sessions included an assessment, the

sharing of knowledge, and guidance on how to implement familiar and unfamiliar skills. As the day progressed the confidence of the participants increased.

Throughout the day the definitions of the classical dressage terms and concepts (i.e. Rhythm, Suppleness, Contact, Connection, Vertical and Lateral Alignment) became more identifiable and user-friendly for the participants.

It's always a challenge for instructors/trainers to make sure their students and horses finish a session with an enthusiasm to practice. The Day 2 sessions met this challenge. Each participant developed an appreciation for what their strengths are as well as an understanding of what to practice at home.

There seemed to be some recurring themes in the practicing category:

Practicing lungeing skills will develop habits that influence a horse's training and allow for the development of a lungeing program that enhances a horse's training.

Practice and get proficient with the different types of lungeing equipment and determine the best correct fit for each horse and or horse/rider combination.

Practice the correct body position, the handling of the lunge line and whip for lungeing.

Practice the use of consistent intonations when using voice commands while lungeing.

Practice a variety of teaching methods, Students learn in many ways. For example, some people learn by "doing" while some learn by "seeing".

Practice being comfortable with repetition while staying creative in teaching.

Practice and develop a proficiency for choosing rider exercises that benefit and improve a rider's position and foster the independence of the hand, seat and leg.

Accessible educational events nurture those from the grass roots to the professional level.

The seminar brought together people of all levels and abilities.

It was exciting to see the attendees looking forward to keeping in touch with each other while continuing to network opportunities to continue their education.

Jayne Marino, Certified Instructor through 4th Level; 2nd day scribe

Member Profile

Volunteer Spotlight: Denise Clark



When I interviewed Denise Clark for the CDA Newsletter, the first thing she said was "Why would you want to do a spotlight on me? I am not that interesting." But the more we talked, the more she could not be more wrong!

Denise began riding at 39 years old because she had always wanted to do it. She took hunter lessons and eventually bought a pinto

Arab-Saddlebred cross. She owned this horse for 17 years. When she "failed" at hunters (as she said), she decided to try dressage.

She quickly learned how much education is really involved in dressage, and proceeded to take lessons, read, watch videos, go to schooling shows, and do all she could, to improve her riding of her little pinto. This horse brought her much joy and a varied riding experience ranging from horse shows to camping all over CT together. She showed this mare until she was 27 years old.

Her next horse, and current mount, is an off the track Thoroughbred named Partners in Gold (aka Apollo). He had raced from 3 to 6 years old but only had 15 starts and ended up at New Start Thoroughbred Rescue. A handsome 16.2 hand TB, Apollo was nice, very quiet and tried his heart out for her. Now 15 years old, she has owned him for 7 years and worked hard to be a good rider

for him and help him achieve her goal of riding him at First Level.

Denise did not have many dressage riders at her farm and often would go to the schooling shows alone. She said she “did not do well” so when she met Fern Feldman at a CDA awards banquet, she began to go to the CDA Board meetings to watch, meet like-minded people, and found she really learned a lot by volunteering at all the shows and clinics. In 2017 she joined the Board of CDA as Membership Secretary.

When I asked her goals for the future, she said, “To improve my contact and connection!”. An adventurous learner, Denise joined my group of CDA riders in Spain with Rafael Soto and is coming to Portugal in the fall with me, to study dressage on Lusitano school masters.

What moved me about this interview, was how much Denise is devoted to making herself a better, more knowledgeable partner for her horse Apollo. At the core of CDA, are many wonderful people like Denise, who work with enthusiasm, determination, and kindness to improve the life of the horse they have in their lives.

Patricia Norcia, CDA Education Coordinator

General Announcements

Dressage4Kids is looking for a variety of volunteers for Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival, August 8-11 at HITS, Saugerties. Would you like to scribe, a ring steward, take care of judges, or help in the D4K store? We'd love to have you!

Please contact Mary Livernois at d4k.org@gmail.com if you can help us out! It's our 25th anniversary and we want a fabulous show for our kids!

Earn USDF Volunteer Recognition – See more at [GMO Volunteer Incentive Program Hour Log](#)

Volunteer Information -

There is a need for volunteers! If you are interested in one of these roles, Email Carol Mohyde carolmohyde@icloud.com or Amy Ravitz amy.ravitz@yahoo.com.

Opportunity to 'Shadow' a Volunteer

– Ask Carol or Amy

USDF Region 8 News

A Message from our Regional Director Greetings Region 8!

May 2024
Greetings Region 8!

Here is some really exciting news - Nash Gagnon of Maine and his gelding Happy Texas Moonlight have been selected to the US Dressage European Young Rider Tour. They will be heading to France and Germany at the end of May. Many, many congratulations to this hard working and deserving young man!

Now that show season is underway, I'd like to put in a plug for volunteering. We all know how important volunteers are to our sport – scribing, running tests or stewarding at shows, helping set up for clinics etc. Volunteering is an excellent way to learn about our sport, see some excellent riding, and generally give back. To support this, USDF has created a Volunteer Incentive Program to recognize the hours spent. Information is here: <https://www.usdf.org/clubs/gmo/gmo-volunteer-incentive-program.asp>.

The office is actively seeking nominations for Volunteer of the Year, and to date they have not received any. Although the deadline is May 1, it is likely to be extended. Information and a nomination form are here: <https://www.usdf.org/docs/awards/service/VOYApplication.pdf?t=4/24/2024 2:35:40 PM>.

Bear Spot Farm is looking for volunteers for their Spring Horse Show Series on May 11 and 12 – you can contact the show manager, Amanda McNeil at 508-369-5009 or amcneil8358@gmail.com.

Speaking of volunteering, I would like some help on the Region 8 website, specifically photos and content on activities in our region. If you're interested, please contact me at the email below. By the way, here is our Region's website: www.usdfregion8.org.

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, the USDF staff has put together a group to centralize SafeSport information useful to GMOs. While the work continues, information can be found on the USDF website here: <https://www.usdf.org/competitions/safesport-resources-for-gmos.asp>, and USEF is developing further documentation, and a webinar is in the works.

The 2024 Absorbine/NEDA Symposium will feature Gareth Hughes this year. It will be held at the Mount Holyoke Equestrian Center October 19th and 20th. Demo rider applications will open on July 1 and close on July 31. More info can be found here: <https://neda.org/page/2024Symposium>.

Upcoming events/deadlines

The deadline for application to the 2024 FEI North American Youth Dressage Championships is **May 7**, and information about it can be found here:

<https://www.usdf.org/competitions/competitions-championships/najyrc/index.asp>.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our youth to get out on a bigger stage and be part of a team effort. The facilities in Traverse City are beautiful, and it is a fun event for our youth athletes as well as their parents!

The Region 8 Youth Clinic will be held June 29 and 30th at Weatogue Stables in Salisbury CT. and Lilo Fore will be the clinician this year. Information for application (the deadline is **May 26th**) can be found here:

<https://www.usdf.org/education/clinics/jryr/riders.asp>.

The selection committee will review applications and announce the selection in early June. Auditors are welcome.

The deadline for nominations for Regional Director is **June 1** and here is info regarding the process and role:

<https://yourdressage.org/2024/04/15/executive-board-roles-responsibilities-nominations-and-elections/> and <https://www.usdf.org/about/about-usdf/governance/nominating/EBFAQ.pdf?t=3/26/2024>

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The Connecticut Dressage Association (CDA) continues the Dressage Development Seminars open to all. The Riding Seminar is July 14-15 (Sunday/Monday) with Bill McMullin and Vicki Hammers-O'Neil at Weatogue Stables, Salisbury, CT, and the Teaching Seminar is August 10-11 (Saturday/Sunday) with Bill McMullin and Sarah Geikie at Sperry View Farm, Bethany, CT.

The contact person for questions, registration and information is Christine Engel, christineengel923@gmail.com; 860-485-8842.

Upcoming recognized shows are on the USDF website. <https://www.usdf.org/calendar/competitions.asp>. You will need to enter Region 8 to see just our shows.

All the best, Helen
vandeh13@gmail.com

Renew Today! CDA Membership for 2024!

To check your 2024 membership status, click here [Members-as-of-Aug-2023.pdf \(ctdressage.org\)](#)

[Click here](#) to see all the fantastic benefits of membership!

CDA Sponsorship Opportunity in the 2025 Omnibus

The CDA Omnibus is an annual publication distributed to our 175+ members, as well as to other USDF group member organizations nationally. Our membership is represented by active dressage enthusiasts, residing, and competing in the northeast. The Omnibus is an invaluable reference used throughout the year by our members, to get information not only on schooling show in the region, but professional goods and services related to their equine needs!

Please consider sponsoring the Omnibus in 2025 and sharing this with anyone who might benefit or want to support the CDA. We are a not-for-profit organization, and the Sponsorship revenue significantly helps to defray the costs of producing the Omnibus.

CDA Sponsors – Connecticut Dressage Association (ctdressage.org)

CDA Scholarships CDA Scholarships for Youth & Amateurs Vista Vintage Educational Scholarship

Scholarship Appreciation

CDA board,

Firstly, thank you for awarding me the CDA Scholarship this spring. I used this for extra help with flying lead changes. The changes are a struggle for my boy Andi at 18 years old and finally learning them. This has been a struggle for us for quite some time and we are slowly making progress.

Working with Heather Mason of Flying Change Farm (Lebanon, NJ) her suggestion to collect him and think of the halt is helping but we need to keep working on it. My goal this year is to get these changes by then end of the season as I want to start 4th level.

Thank you again for making this Scholarship available. It really benefits us working AA to be able to take lessons or clinics outside of our training program.

Sincerely, Sherri and Andi

CDA offers one or more scholarships per year, per category for CDA members. Check out the details for 2024 on the [CDA Scholarship Web](#) page.

The Vista Vintage Educational Scholarship



Through the continued generosity of Vista Vintage Award founder, Ted Plaut, CDA stewards the Vista Vintage Educational Scholarship.

The Vista Vintage Award singles out the best performances by our special senior horses. These are the equine partners who demonstrate that age is no barrier to competing and earning scores to make any rider proud.

The Vista Vintage Award program focuses on the success of 'senior horses. It consists of a \$300 cash prize and an elegant special award.

For more information contact Kari Bradshaw at rkhoshoe@aol.com.

Philla and Charlie Osborne Volunteer Award

Each year, CDA has the option to give a Volunteer of the Year Award for special service to CDA.

History: The award is named in honor of Philla and Charlie Osborne who donated hours and hours of service to CDA in the 80s and 90s. They were always found at the practice ring at shows (recognized and schooling) checking numbers and entries and letting riders know when they were "on deck". Philla and Charlie also rode for many years with Vicki Hammers-O'Neil and today, Philla owns a horse that is being trained and competed by Vicki.

CDA Rider Achievement Awards

An annual CDA Rider Recognition Program focusing on Juniors and AA's. Qualifying rides must be completed within the current competition year and can be achieved at either schooling or recognized shows.

Scores can be achieved on multiple horses. Training through 4th level. 3 scores, minimum 62% for schooling and 60% for recognized.

Follow CDA on Facebook [CDA Facebook Page](#)



CDA Facebook Pictures Needed
Please submit pictures for the CDA Facebook.
(Submitter needs to own the picture or copyright of the submission.)

Send to president@ctdressage.org

Schooling Show Competitions Awards Criteria for 2024

Active CDA members are eligible to submit scores for the following: Youth, Adult Amateur and Open competitors who compete between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2024 at the following:

- 1) CDA-sponsored schooling shows.
- 2) Schooling shows whose prize lists appear in the 2022 CDA OMNIBUS.
- 3) Schooling show listings that are published in the CDA website.
- 4) Rider must be a paid member at the time of showing for scores to count for year-end awards.

Online submissions opened November 1, 2024 and ended on December 1, 2024.

Full details and requirements are outlined on the [CDA Competition Web](#) page.

2024 Calendar of Events

***Please check the Website regularly for the status of events Ctdressage.org**

Next CDA Board Meeting

Monday, June 17, 2024 – 6:00 PM

At Fern Feldman's house **OR**

Zoom Meeting will start at 6:30 pm

Contact Fern Feldman | fernfeldman@gmail.com

CDA Sponsored Schooling Shows 2024

Sperry View Farm

91 Bethway Rd.

Bethany, CT

***Saturday 5/4/24**

Judge: Liana Antonovich (L Graduate with Distinction)

***Sunday 9/1/24** (opening date: 8/10/24- closing date 8/24/24)

Judge: Steve Rugerio (L Graduate with Distinction)

Virtual Series – www.spotlighthorseshows.com for prize list and entry

CDA Online Schooling Show #1 entries open

1/19/24 - 2/11/24 Video due 3/3/24 RESULTS 3/14/24

CDA Online Schooling Show #2 entries open

3/15/24 - 4/7/24 Video due 4/28/24 RESULTS 5/9/24

CDA Online Schooling Show #3 entries open

5/4/24 - 5/26/24 Video due 6/16/24 RESULTS 6/27/24

R Folly Farm

380 W. Morris Rd.

Morris, CT

Sunday 6/23/24 (opening date: 6/1/24 - closing date: 6/16/24 Please refer to Abacus Events prize list for details)

Judge: Virginia Leary (L Graduate with Distinction)

Weatogue Stables

33 Weatogue Rd.

Salisbury, CT

Sunday 7/21/2024 (Please refer to Weatogue Stable prize list for details)

Judge: TBA

Belle Free Farm

86 Hennequin Rd.

Columbia, CT

***Saturday 9/28/24** (opening date 9/5/24-closing date 9/20/24)

Judge: Matthew Beasley (L Graduate with Distinction)

*Please refer to CDA Schooling Show master prize list for details