

eQuester

Wisconsin Dressage & Combined Training's Monthly Newsletter

COVID Protocols Update: April 14, 2021

Spectator Capacity Changes at USEF Competitions

Excerpt from a Press Release from the U.S. Equestrian Communications Department

Beginning May 3, 2021, licensees of USEF competitions are permitted to welcome a limited number of spectators back to their competitions. Dr. Mark Hart, USEF Chief Medical Officer stated, "In the spirit of moving our sport forward and recognizing the ever-changing dynamics of the Covid-19 pandemic resulting from the increasing number of distributed vaccines, we are working to finalize the specific protocols related to a measured return of spectator attendance. We continue to collaborate with our USEF stakeholders and public health officials and plan to distribute these new measures along with any other pertinent updates..."

On May 3, 2021, spectators will be allowed on competition grounds under the following capacity restrictions:

- Outdoor Venues: A maximum of 40% of the ticketed spectator capacity for competitions that operate with a ticketed gate OR a maximum of 400 spectators for competitions that do not ticket spectators, whichever is greater.
- Indoor Venues: A maximum of 30% of the ticketed spectator capacity for competitions that operate with a ticketed gate OR a maximum of 300 spectators for competitions that do not ticket spectators, whichever is greater.
- For venues that consist of both outdoor and indoor components, the above capacity restrictions apply accordingly.

Spectators must comply with all applicable requirements including, but not limited to, wearing face masks/face coverings, social distancing, and frequent hand washing. The capacity numbers included above are the maximum permitted at a USEF competition each day. Because of the requirement to socially distance, some venues or situations might not allow organizers to accommodate the maximum allowable number of spectators.

USEF also has expanded the definition of sponsors to include individuals or businesses that have an agreement in place with the competition to provide goods, services, or financial support integral to the sustainability of a competition. Sponsors, participants, competition staff, support

personnel, volunteers, and service providers are not included in the spectator capacity numbers.

Competition organizers and participants should continue to follow all governmental and health authority guidance and restrictions, which if more restrictive, supersede USEF's requirements.

USEF hopes the community will continue its effort to keep the sport open as restrictions are eased. "We will continue to carefully monitor conditions and regularly consult with health authorities with the goal of being able to provide additional updates in the coming weeks and months that will further ease restrictions without endangering the health and safety of competitors," added Dr. Hart.





Caryn Vesperman Editor

All advertisements, articles and photographs (with photo release) should be submitted by the 15th of the preceding month of publication, unless you make prior arrangements for additional time.

Calendar of events will appear in both the eQuester and on the WDCTA website.

Payment for advertisements should be submitted via PayPal through the WDCTA website (wdcta.org) or mailed with a check made out to WDCTA and mailed to the editor.

CONTACT INFO

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This Snowbird Heads Home

I am not a winter person at all, other than enjoying the fireplace while looking out the windows at a beautiful snow fall. To be clear, I hate, hate, hate being cold, and having to ride horses with numb hands, cold feet and tingling face was never my idea of fun. So, once I was able to escape the cold (mimicking my snowbird mom who has escaped to Arizona for years), I chose to escape to the horse world of Florida for the third winter in a row.

This winter in Wellington was a bit different than previous winters in that the usual special events were cancelled, due to Covid. However, I was still able to scribe at the Global Festival (and make a few bucks doing it). Scribing in the Stadium arena where the riders are trying to make the World Cup or Olympic teams was stressful at times, but also so exciting to see these top riders up close. But the stakes are high, and while I like electronic scribing and am a fairly fast typist, it's stressful. If it's stressful to me, can you imagine how it is for the judges who are determining a competitor's fate? At times I think it would be fun to be a scribe at an international competition such as the World Cup, but then I think it would be better to be the gate keeper because the stress is way lower and you're still up close and can watch the tests easier!

One of the things that always strikes me is how horse-oriented the Wellington area is. There are numerous tack stores in the area and vendors at the shows, although I felt bad for the show vendors this year with the limited audience allowed in. (I did my best to support them. ha!)

There are also countless feed stores with stacks of hay and shavings bags. I've never seen anything like it. A lot of trucks and trailers are on the streets too, taking horses to and from shows, and now...back home.



My "scribe" view looking out at Global's international ring with my iPad and keyboard in front.



This is only half of what one feed/tack/shavings retailer looks like that I shop at. All have stacks of shavings bags and hay bales that are more than twice as high as I am tall. I use four different retailers in the Wellington area: one for grain, one for shavings, one for supplements and one for hay. All are within a half-hour or less from each other.) Most deliver on a weekly basis if you order a minimum of \$100 worth of supplies.

Continued on next page

Editor (a.k.a Snowbird) continued

It's also been interesting to see how these side-by-side neighborhood horse farms pack barns, arenas (some covered, some open air), hay storage, homes and/or apartments in very little space compared to the acres we have in Wisconsin and surrounding Midwest states. Some are functional and cozy; others are mansions. And once again, I have to write...I've never seen anything like it.

Throughout April, the horse birds started heading home. I'm one of them. I learned a lot, but miss my husband, friends and home, plus Wisconsin summers and falls are so beautiful. Already in April, the sweat was running down my back and stinging my eyes during my rides here in Wellington!

So while this winter wasn't packed with special events and my days primarily consisted of scribing at Global a few weekends a month, riding on my own or in lessons, with trips to the feed, tack or grocery store (with face mask on) and an occasional trip to the beach, it was still worth escaping the cold for a few months.



Caryn



Just in the horse community where I keep my horses, facilities range from multi-million dollar mansions with 14 bedrooms, 15 bathrooms and unbelievable stables (top photo) to everything in-between. Some focus on dressage and others on jumping, some are private and some offer year-round and/or seasonal boarding.

The Learning Curve

By Diane Brault

Last year I made arrangements to go to Florida to attend the “Two Worlds Together” Dressage Summit, put on by Pat and Linda Parelli. Their goal is to help riders of all levels of expertise to use the principles of Natural Horsemanship in combination with the concepts of gymnastic training in dressage to help riders and their horses meet their goals while developing positive relationships with happy, healthy horses. This year, the presenters included Janice Dulak, Christoph Hess, Lauren Barwick and Linda Parelli.

Unfortunately, Covid 19 reared its ugly head before the summit began, and I had to attend virtually, watching from home via my trusty old computer. Although I really missed being there in person, I did find the silver lining. The videography was great, and brought me much, much closer to the action than I would have been if I had been sitting in the bleachers. I could also crank up the volume on my computer so my aging ears could hear everything better. Since I’m a note-taker, the best part of all is that I could pause the video to take notes, and rerun any sections to clarify concepts by hearing them over again!

I hope you enjoy reading about some of what I learned.

Lauren Barwick is an equestrian from Canada, who now resides in Florida with her husband and two-year-old daughter. She has a wide range of equine experience: eventing, fox hunting, show jumping, dressage, natural horsemanship, reining and training challenging horses. While working at a movie studio ranch with stunt horses, a 100-pound hay bale fell from the hay loft onto Lauren, breaking her back and severing her spinal cord. At the young age of only 22, Lauren became a paraplegic, with no feeling from her belly button down. Although she tried other sports, her love of horses never waned. Eventually, she returned to riding, using a customized saddle with a handle bar to hold on to so she wouldn’t tip forward. Only three years later, she competed with the Canadian paralympic team at the World Equestrian Games (WEG). Since then, she has won bronze, silver and gold medals at several paralympic games and at the WEGs in dressage. Her skills and determination led her to become a World Para-Reining Champion and induction into the



Lauren Barwick, a paralympian and bronze and silver medalist enjoys training horses and teaching their riders.

Canadian Disability Hall of Fame, as well as other achievements. Lauren is now focused on qualifying for the 2021 Paralympic Games in Japan, in addition to her roles as teacher, trainer, rider and speaker.

“Two Worlds Together” Dressage Summit, Lauren chose to delve into the topic of finding and developing “feel.” In her experience, she had found that many of her students want to jump into collection, but truly aren’t ready for it. She believes learning to “feel” your horse and offer your horse a two-way conversation with your horse is a critical skill to have before you worry about asking your horse to really push from behind. After all, would it make sense to drive a powerful race car before you’re good at controlling its speed and direction? (As you may imagine, this is particularly important to Lauren, since she is no longer able to communicate to her horses through her seat or legs!)

But don’t jump into the driver’s seat just yet. There are prerequisites that must be met in order to open up a conversation about “feel” with your horse. You need to have already developed a good seat, elastic arms and fingers and quiet hands. These are elements that allow you to have a soft, steady but flexible contact with your horse’s mouth.

Continued on next page

The Learning Curve continued

Lauren's goal for these sessions was to help the riders and auditors understand what it means to have a "feel" of their horses, and go home with some ideas of how to begin to teach their horses how to respond to their riders' "feel." Read on if you'd like to investigate these concepts a bit more!

Your first goal is to practice listening to your horse through your fingers. (Remember, Lauren no longer has the capacity to listen to her horse or communicate to it through her seat and legs!)

Mounted at a stand still in a safe location, give your horse a long rein, just barely feeling the presence of her mouth on the bit. Think about what her mouth is doing. Is she mouthing the bit? Backing off of it? Rooting down against it? Turning her head to pay attention to other things? What she's doing doesn't matter. Right now, the only thing that's important is your listening to her and feeling her very smallest movements. Don't try to restrict her in any way. Follow her with your elastic arms, wrists and fingers. Listen carefully to her through your light, gossamer fingers for a couple of minutes, until you find it easier to do. Are you surprised at all you could feel through her mouth?

Initially, I found it pretty difficult to feel my mare's slightest tongue movement, or much else, for that matter! So, I closed my eyes. That blocked out many distractions and made it much easier for me to listen to my horse. Be sure you are in a safe area and that your horse will stand quietly before you try this!

Your next goal is to suggest to your horse that she now begins to listen to your lightest touch and eventually to actively seek out your feel of her mouth.

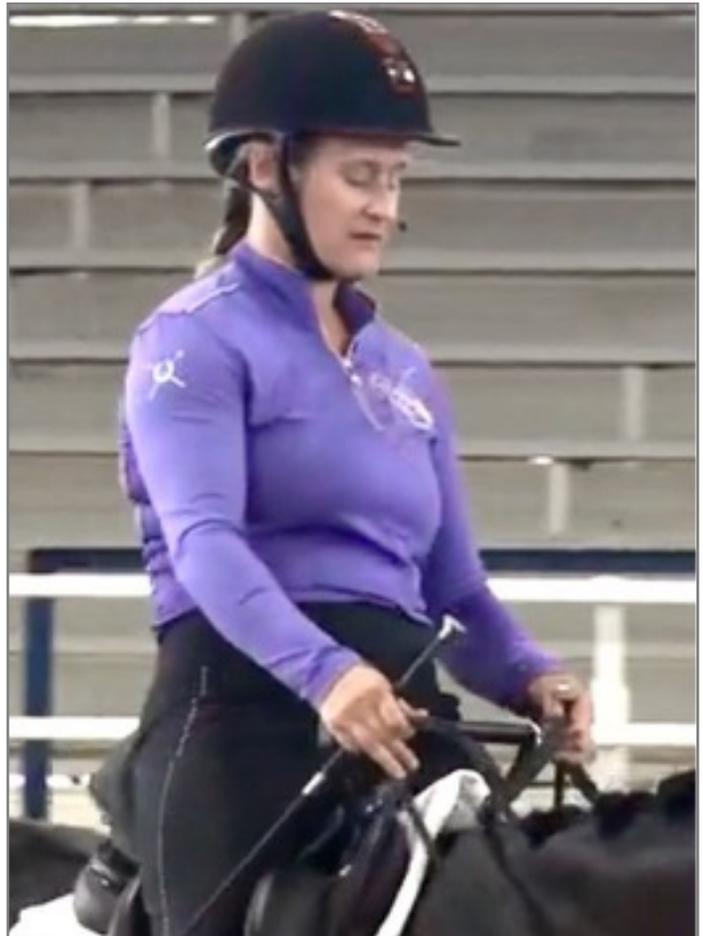
Remaining at a standstill, open a ring finger to invite her to follow the bit down and forward. Don't worry if

she doesn't understand this, yet. Don't increase your rein pressure. Just offer her the opportunity. Learning is a process that takes time. Your patience will lead to your horse's relaxation and confidence in you.

At first, your horse may stiffen its neck, raise its head, or do other things to brace against you. In a teaching situation in particular, Lauren doesn't like to give the horse anything to brace against. Instead, she softens her fingers just a bit so her horse has nothing to brace against, and then asks again and again until the horse makes the correct choice.

Now you're going to ever-so-slowly pick up your reins and suggest your horse return her head to a more normal resting position. Keep your "barely there" contact with both reins, and squeeze one ring finger in slow motion. Can you squeeze so slowly that it takes an entire three seconds to complete a single squeeze? A horse that isn't used to following your slightest touch will need these seconds to think about what you are asking her. A horse that understands all this will still need a second or two to process your request and respond to it. Gently release your squeezing finger when you feel her try to give to it even the tiniest bit.

It's critical to always give and soften your fingers when your horse gives



Lauren rides with her eyes closed to heighten her awareness of the tiniest movements of her horse's tongue, jaw, head and neck.

you the tiniest try, especially when you are initially teaching your horse to follow your feel. When in doubt, give, instead of maintaining pressure. Lauren believes it's more productive to make a small mistake by giving at an improper time than entirely missing your horse's "try."

After the horse softens to the first rein squeeze, pause a few seconds, then repeat with the other ring finger just as slowly, until your horse returns her head to her normal position.

Personally, I had a LOT of trouble feeling when my horse would give me the smallest "try!" Again, closing my eyes made it much easier for me to identify when my horse was shifting her weight just a bit or softening her jaw. But remember-- safety first!

Continued on next page

The Learning Curve continued

The next goal is to further develop your ability to feel your horse. Work on the same exercises at walk until you and your horse feel confident in communicating softly. In a safe area with a safe horse, work on developing your feel of your horse with your eyes closed. Try closing your eyes for just a couple strides at first. Better yet, if a friend is available, have your friend lead you around. Can you maintain proper posture without tension in your body? Is your seat melting into the saddle and gliding along with her body without being “dead weight?” Is your contact with your horse’s mouth gentle and steady (NOT FIXED!)? Are your arms following your horse’s mouth with elasticity and not with little jerks or bangs on her bars? What is your horse doing? Can you tell when your friend is gradually turning your horse compared to walking a straight line? Can you feel her jaw move? Her tongue? Is she looking in a different direction? Remember not to correct the horse. Follow her movement with elastic hands and elbows and just try to maintain a soft, comforting, completely consistent feel of her mouth.

While maintaining the walk, work on furthering your horse’s understanding of listening to you and softening to your touch by practicing picking



Here, Lauren emphasizes the importance of softening her ring finger when her horse softens to her hand. Is she ‘throwing away the contact?’ Yes, but it is critical to reward the horse when she is teaching it to soften to the bit. Her momentary release tells the horse that its response is correct, and that being soft is a pleasant and calm place to be.

up your reins in slow motion, a little on one side, a little on the other. Walk on for a few strides. Then soften one ring finger to invite her to stretch down while you continue to follow her. While still walking, give her some thinking time before you gradually pick up the reins and repeat the activity. It shouldn’t take long before your horse is calmly and cooperatively following your feel with trust and relaxation. And yes, of course, you can work on these things at a trot when you’re ready!

Practice these things at the beginning of every ride, and soon they will become automatic! You’ll be conversing with your horse many times during a ride without even

thinking about it. Your horse will stay in tune with you longer and longer and return to you quicker and quicker. She will grow to trust you and grow to be a more relaxed, responsive and happy partner.

Contact, connection, being on the bit and developing collection will become a simple progression of all you are doing—once you and your horse have “feel” for each other!

Classifieds

2008 OTTB 17H, dark bay gelding, looking for a job! “Begbie” spent time with KT Performance Horses refreshing his skills. Extremely smart, willing and enjoys work. \$3,500. Contact Claudia (owner) at (608) 697-2977 and/or Katie Terhall via text (608) 843-1208. Check out this link to Katie’s FB page for photos and video: <https://www.facebook.com/607841210/posts/10158138010061211/?d=n>

Amanda Johnson Musical Freestyle Award Winners

Champion award winner, Joann Williams, with her partner, Glamour Girl DBA, won the “Dancing for Your Dream” freestyle award in memory of Amanda Johnson. The championship prize was an embroidered cooler for earning the highest average freestyle score. The sponsors of this award are Deanna Hertrich and the late Dr. Kevin Nelson.



Reserve Champion Jenny Schmitt models her award, an Ariat show shirt with “Dancing for Your Dream” logo. Jenny states she is “honored to receive this as it touches close to the heart as I have a close friend that went through breast cancer and lost my mom from ovarian cancer. Thank you very much to the family for the sponsorship of this generous award in Amanda’s memory.”



WDCTA Early Bird Winner!

WDCTA member, Chantel Temp, a new Southwest Chapter member from Homen, WI, is the Early Bird winner. The photo is of her and the Early Bird prize—a new saddle pad! Thanks for joining us, Chantel!



WDCTA Junior/ Young Rider

Ride-A-Test Dressage Clinic

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Location: Beomor Farm

1785 S Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53575



Get you and your equine partner ready for the upcoming show season or introduce yourself to a test in a low-stress environment. Ride-A-Test is ideal for first-time test riders or veteran pairs looking to move up a level before debuting at a recognized show. All riding levels are welcome and encouraged. In addition to riders, auditors are welcome to attend and learn from the judge's perspective!

Priority is for junior/young riders, but any slots not filled are open to others.

Rider Cost:

- * WDCTA youth member: \$60
- * Non-WDCTA youth member: \$100
- * WDCTA adult: \$100
- * Non-WDCTA adult: \$125
- * All riders: \$25 stabling fee (or haul-in fee \$30)

Auditor Cost:

- * WDCTA member: Free
- * Non-WDCTA member: \$20 (payable day of clinic)

Note: All participants/auditors must wear a mask unless mounted on a horse and sign both Beomor and WDCTA liability release forms. The WDCTA liability form is available on its website, WDCTA.org, under Forms. Beomor release form will be available the day of the event.

Questions?

Contact Mary Barr (WDCTA YR Coordinator) at:
mbarr255@gmail.com or
call/text (608) 214-5985.

Mail form below to:

Mary Barr
N1944 River Oaks Road
Reeseville, WI 53579

Clinician:

Caryn Vesperman

'r' dressage judge
USDF Bronze,
Silver and Gold
medalist



POSTMARK registration by April 20, 2021

Ride-A-Test Registration Form

Name: _____ Horse: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Check one:

- WDCTA YR (21 and under)
- Non-WDCTA YR
- WDCTA adult
- Non-WDCTA adult

Test you wish to ride: _____

What you wish to work on at this clinic:

Include with this form:

- \$60 WDCTA YR member rider
- \$100 non-WDCTA YR non-member rider
- \$100 WDCTA adult member rider
- \$125 non-WDCTA adult rider
- \$25 stabling fee (separate check to Beomor Farm)
- Coggins dated after May 16, 2021
- WDCTA waiver signed (by guardian if under 18) found on WDCTA website under forms

***NOTE: Auditors who are not members of WDCTA
can pay \$20 to WDCTA on day of event.***

**WISCONSIN DRESSAGE & COMBINED TRAINING ASSOCIATION
WAIVER, RELEASE, AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

In consideration for my participation in the 2021 **Nicki Butler Eventing Clinic, For The Horses Farm** (hereafter, "the Activity"), I (the "Participant") hereby acknowledge and voluntarily agree to the following (hereafter, "Agreement"). "Participation" includes, but is not limited to, riding, handling, instructing, or spectating.

1. Acknowledgment of Inherent Risks of Equine Activities. I acknowledge and understand that there are numerous inherent risks of participating in equine activities, including, *but not limited to:* (a) the propensity of an equine or other animal, irrespective of its training, to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm, or death to persons on or around them (for example, jump, run, kick, buck, bolt, spin, rear, strike, or bite); (b) the unpredictability of an equine's reaction to such things as sounds, sudden movements and unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals; (c) certain hazards such as conditions at or below the surface or ground, whether seen or unseen; (d) collisions with other animals or objects; (e) the potential for another person participating in an equine activity to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to me, or to others, such as failing to maintain control over the equine or not acting within his or her ability; (f) the breakage or failure of tack or other equipment; and (g) the potential that an equine or other animal may cause injury or harm to the rider or to other persons or animals in the vicinity. *I understand these risks and further acknowledge that I am not relying on the Wisconsin Dressage and Combined Training Association (hereafter, "WDCTA") to list in this document all possible inherent risks of participating in equine activities or the Activity.*

2. Acknowledgement that Participation in the Activity is Voluntary and Requires Personal Judgment. I acknowledge and understand that riding instruction by its nature requires that the instructor issue directions in the form of "commands." I understand that while I should consider such commands, I must and will use my own judgment during my participation in the Activity. I understand that while participating in the Activity that: the commands and all activities engaged in as part of the instruction are entirely voluntary; that the instructor is not entitled to nor requests absolute obedience; that I may elect not to comply with any command or suggested act; and that I am expected to at all times be alert and thinking while participating in the Activity. I represent that both my equine and I have the requisite level of physical fitness and mental alertness to enable us to participate in the Activity, and are in good health and free from injury, illness or other defects which may impair our ability to engage in the Activity.

3. Waiver and Release of Liability. I understand and voluntarily accept the inherent risks of engaging in equine activities, including risks from my voluntary compliance or noncompliance with instructor commands associated with the Activity. I voluntarily agree to hold harmless, release, waive, and covenant not to sue **Nicki Butler**, WDCTA, its officers, members, non-members that pay an auditing fee, For The Horses Farm, as well as all other participants in the Activity ("Released Parties") from any and all injuries, death, liability, or damage to person or property arising from my participation in the Activity, unless caused by Released Parties' reckless, intentional or willful misconduct. Thus, I understand that this waiver and release is effective even if the injury, death, liability, or damage to person or property is caused or contributed to by the *negligent* action or inaction of Released Parties.

4. Equine Activity Liability Law. I acknowledge that I have read the State of Wisconsin's notice regarding equine activities:

Notice: A person who is engaged for compensation in the rental of equines or equine equipment or tack or in the instruction of a person in the riding or driving of an equine or in being a passenger upon an equine is not liable for the injury or death of a person involved in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, as defined in section 895.481 (1) (e) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

5. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin. Any controversy, dispute, or claim arising out of or related to this Agreement, shall be resolved exclusively through proceedings filed in the federal or state court in Waushara County, WI. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision or sentence of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision or sentence of this Agreement, which shall remain in full force and effect.

I have read this waiver, release, and hold harmless agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I am assuming risks inherent to my participation, and agree to be fully bound by its terms. I understand that I am free to consult with any counsel about the terms of this agreement.

Signature of Participant _____ Date _____
(or parent or legal guardian of behalf of Participant, if Participant is under 18 years of age)

Name of Participant (please print) _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Phone _____

Dressage Horse Boarding Eagle, WI



Tailwind Farm, a premier dressage facility in Eagle, WI has one opening beginning March 1, 2021.

Heated barn and tack room. 12x12 matted stalls with automatic waterers. Grain AM and PM, hay fed 4 times daily. Daily turnout in spacious dry lots and attached pastures are used weather permitting.

Warm 60'x150' indoor arena with well maintained footing. 2 outdoor arenas, one sand and one grass standard dressage arena.

This 30 acre farm has trails surrounding the property and hay field, also with in a short distance of the Kettle Moraine trail system.

Training and lessons provided by Andrea Schten. Andrea is a USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze medalist on self-trained horses. Multiple students have also obtained their USDF medals under her tutelage.

Please contact Andrea Schten for more information. Call or text 262-470-4557, email: aschten@hotmail.com

(Waiver also on next page.)

Saddle Up

By Jayne Ayers, Region 2
Education Committee

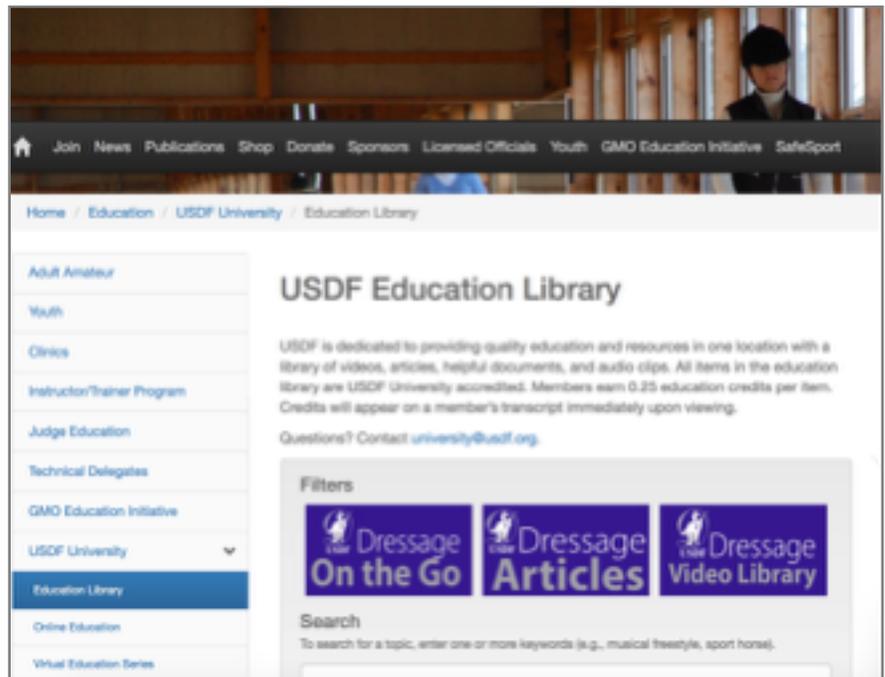
Have you ever wished you could find a clear explanation of a confusing dressage term or see a video of a correct rein back or know more about equine nutrition?

Whether you are new to the sport or an experienced professional, USDF offers many opportunities for you to expand your knowledge of dressage. You can learn more about training theory, improve your eye, learn what the judge is looking for, get training tips, explore freestyle design, and much more.

There are in-person clinics and seminars, online programs, and a huge library of videos, articles and podcasts.

A program to recognize your educational efforts is called USDF University, which offers credit for each thing you do. USDF University also approves and promotes programs designed by other organizations, with topics pertaining to things like veterinary issues, horse management, tack choices and rider fitness. Links to all these are on the USDF website.

The biggest challenge might be getting comfortable with navigating the website. When you go exploring, some things can be accessed by anyone. If you want full access, you need to login. For the educational offerings on the site, the general search engine might not be your best next step. Instead, go to the Education tab. If you click on "Education Library" under "USDF University" or you will get a new search engine, targeted to educational resources. For instance, if you type in "Turn on the Haunches," you will get more than a dozen articles, podcasts and videos on the subject. A few are full manuals, available for



a charge from the USDF Store. The rest are free for you to enjoy right away. And, you even get USDF education credits for those you view or listen to, automatically entered to your account! It's a quick, easy way to get targeted information on whatever aspects of dressage are new or challenging for you.

There are 26 Short Courses under another tab, with topics from flying changes to foal basics and scribe training, all under 20 minutes to complete, with education credit available if you choose to take a quiz or survey. Over a dozen longer Online Courses are also available, with more extensive topics like Lungeing, the Aids of the Rider, Materiale Classes and Sports Psychology.

For in-depth learning, USDF has quite a number of online webinars and in-person programs, which need to be organized by a GMO or Region, and require advance sign up. Some are an hour long, some several full days. A few are national in scope, like the annual Trainer's Conference and the Sport Horse Prospect Development Forum. Others are put on by Group Member Organizations (GMO)— clubs like yours. The in-person ones may be held locally, but often are open to those willing to travel from other

areas. If it is an online program, such as the one on freestyle, it is often open to USDF members outside the sponsoring club. Checking in regularly with the USDF Website or with your Regional Newsletter or Facebook page is a great way to keep up with what is scheduled.

One example is the L Education Program, which is required of those wanting to become judges, but is even more popular with riders, trainers and anyone else interested in knowing what the judge is looking for and how judging is done. It includes classroom sessions with hundreds of video examples, as well as live horse demonstrations. Any GMO can put one on. If three full weekends seems like too much to tackle, an online program, consisting of three one-hour sessions, called "Taste of the L Program," is also available. That and the new remote access Musical Freestyle Program can be found under the "Education" tab, then click on "Continuing Education in Dressage Judging."

Whether you are completely new to dressage or an experienced instructor, the educational opportunities available from USDF might be just the thing to help you on your way to success.



2021 Clinic Series
Saturday, May 15
Saturday, June 19
Saturday, July 17
Saturday, August 21



Nicki Butler is a freelance equine professional from Madison, Wisconsin. She is a certified Wisconsin Open Show judge and a nationally certified riding instructor.

As an Equine Sports Massage Therapist she is also trained in Functional Movement Therapy, Myofascial Release, Reiki and Cranio-Sacral techniques. Her goal is to help create connection and improve communication between horses and their people. Nicki has competed to second level dressage and Preliminary level Eventing.

This clinic series is a fun way to gather with new and old eventing and dressage friends and watch each other's progress through the summer. Each clinic will include both dressage and jumping lessons, both in a small group environment. Stadium and Cross Country style jumping are available during clinics. Both beginner and intermediate level groups will be at all clinic dates. All ages of riders are welcome! All clinics are held at For The Horses Farm in Wautoma WI (see address below). The clinics begin with Dressage at 9 AM and run as long as necessary for the registered riders, the time schedule of each individual clinic will be announced the week prior via email so be sure to get your registrations in. Late registrations are welcome, please contact Cari for availability or with questions: central@wdcta.org

Rider Name _____ Under 18? Guardian Signature _____
Horse Name _____ Breed _____
Phone Number _____ Email _____
Riding Experience (horse and rider each please) _____

Both Dressage and Jump Lesson Clinic \$100 each date - or register for all four dates for \$350!

Dressage or Jump Only Lesson \$50 each date - or register for all four dates for \$175!

Clinic fee payable to **WDCTA Central Chapter** 5/15 6/19 7/17 8/21 All Four

Please Check Date and Clinic Options Jumping Dressage Beginner Intermediate

Stall Fee (Payable to Cari Schmidt) \$20 per clinic. No Trailer Tie Allowed.

Waivers will be signed upon arrival or can be printed and mailed with registration, payment and Coggins to

Cari Schmidt
WDCTA Central Chapter
W9711 Beechnut Drive
Wautoma WI 54982

MEGAN MCISAAC
USDF Certified Instructor

IMPORT AND DOMESTIC
SALE HORSES SUITABLE FOR
AA AND YOUNG RIDERS.



Helping dreams become reality when
finding your next Dressage partner.
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608.445.8531 Megan
Lindinhof
Madison, WI

Sport Horse Therapeutic Services

Certified and skilled independent saddle fitter offering fitting and equine bodywork. Specializing in myofascial release, stress point therapy, structural correction, and Reiki.

Lori Anderson

For more info:
www.SportHorseTherapeutics.com

www.facebook.com/SaddleFitterWisconsin/

Abby Onsgard Dressage

*Lessons. Training.
Will travel to you.*

Madison, WI 53714
abbyonsgarddressage@gmail.com
(608) 8439552



PEN BRYN FARM

Valerie Ahl
4321 State Road 138
Oregon, WI 53575
(608) 698-7924
veahl@wisc.edu

Stabling, breeding top bloodlines.

Tailwind Farm

Andrea & Dean Achtenhagen, owners

W350 S6890 Ulrickson Road
Eagle, WI 53119
(262) 470-4557
aschten@hotmail.com
andreaschten.com



Calendar of Events

WDCTA Events

May 16
Junior/Young Rider Clinic:
Ride-a-Test/Fix-a-Test
Judge: Caryn Vesperman, "r"
Location: Beomor Farm
1785 So. Fish Hatchery, Road,
Fitchburg, WI 53575
(just south of Madison beltline)
Contact: Mary Barr,
rmbarr255@gmail.com

May 15
WDCTA Central Chapter Eventing
Clinic Series
Clinician: Nicki Butler
Location: For The Horses Farm,
Wautoma, WI
Both dressage and stadium and cross
country jumping lessons.

Other Events

June 12-13
Wisconsin Charity Classic
Location: Jefferson County Fairgrounds
Judge: Jenna Strauss, L graduate
Contact: Jeff Heise (920) 941-0802
jeffrheise@gmail.com
Show bill & entry form at:
wisconsinmorganhorseclub.org

Member Listings

STABLES

Grand Prix Farm
Jackie Luebke-Puetz
15034 Co. Rd. X
Kiel, WI 53042-9706
cvestor@aol.com
(920) 693-3367

Indoor arena w/ mirrors, heated barn and bathroom, H/C wash stall, screened facility, all turnout in PVC fencing—no bugs! Limited openings for boarders. Trails. Lessons available. No drama queens.

Lindinhof Equine Sports Zentrum

Megan McIsaac
4246 Schneider Drive
Oregon, WI 53575
lindinhofllc@gmail.com
(608) 445-8531

80x200' heated indoor w/ mirrors. New stalls and client tack room w/ individual lockers. Individual and group turnout. Wash stall. Solarium. Theraplate. Numerous trails. Individual training programs. Lessons and leasing options on FEI school horses, month training for horses and riders. FEI trainer on site.

Pen Bryn Farm

Valerie Ahl
4321 State Road 138
Oregon, WI 53575
(608) 698-7924
veahl@wisc.edu

Large box stalls, turnout in small groups, indoor and outdoor arenas, wash stall, lounge.

Tailwind Farm

Andrea Schten
W350S6890 Ulrickson Road
Eagle, WI 53119
(262) 470-4557
aschten@hotmail.com
www.andreaschten.com

Heated barn and tack room, dry lots and large pastures. H/C wash stall, 10 x 12' stalls, Theraplate, indoor and outdoor arenas.

INSTRUCTORS

Abby Onsgard
Abby Onsgard Dressage
521 Memphis Avenue
Madison, WI 53714
abbyonsgarddressage@gmail.com
(608) 8439552

30 years of teaching experience, USDF Bronze and Silver medals (Gold pending). WDCTA, regional and national championship wins through FEI levels and numerous year-end awards. Active Grand Prix competitor, trainer, and coach, with USDF medals earned on self-trained horses. Students have multiple national, regional championship wins and WDCTA/IDCTA awards and medals. Completed the "L" judging program and is available to judge schooling shows. School horses available. Will travel.

Andrea Schten
W350S6890 Ulrickson Road
Eagle, WI 53119
(262) 470-4557
aschten@hotmail.com
www.andreaschten.com

USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medalist, regional championships: Training through Grand Prix on self-trained horses. Multiple students have earned Bronze and Silver medals. Schoolmasters available. Trailering in for lessons welcome. Available for clinics; travel for lessons.

Tracey Dikkers
W4835 Aspen Court
Wild Rose, WI 54984
(608) 220-2628

USEF/USDF Silver and Bronze medalist, trained through Grand Prix. 25+ years of experience. USEF/USDF "r" judge. Will travel.

Joan Leuck Waak
Angels Flight Farm
4823 Range Line Road
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920) 323-9645

35+ years of experience. Silver medalist working toward Gold medal. Has earned year-end USDF champion and reserve in all breeds FEI level; several show high-point awards at national and FEI levels. Will teach intro through Prix St. George. School horses available. Will travel.

Jackie Luebke-Puetz
15034 Co. Rd. X
Kiel, WI 53042-9706
cvestor@aol.com
(920) 693-3367

Will teach through 2nd level, earned USDF Bronze medal. Served on USDF education committee, USEF steward. Will travel.

Megan McIsaac
Lindinhof Equine Sports Zentrum
4246 Schneider Drive
Oregon, WI 53575
lindinhofllc@gmail.com
(608) 445-8531

FEI trainer, USDF-certified instructor thru 4th Level, 2014 national champion with Kingsley. USDF Gold, Silver, Bronze medalist, all USDF bars. Competed four horses at GP. Competed successfully at Dressage at Devon and West Coast Festival. Year-end USDF, USEF, WDCTA awards. 15+ years teaching experience. Students competed through GP, earned rider awards and medals. Travel for lessons and clinics.

Kate Van Sicklen
110 Merrill Crest Drive
Madison, WI 53705
katherinevansicklen@gmail.com
(608) 669-0148

40+ years of teaching experience. British Horse Society instructor certification. USDF "L" graduate with distinction. USDF Associate Certified Instructor. USDF Silver Medal. Shown through Prix St. George. Will teach through 4th Level. Specialize in teaching horses and riders correct basics. Will travel.

Member Listings

BUSINESS

Tracey Dikkers - USEF/USDF "r" Judge
W4835 Aspen Court
Wild Rose, WI 54984
(608) 220-2628

USDF Silver & Bronze medals on self-trained horses. Available for USEF/USDF dressage shows, clinics and schooling shows.

Lindinhof Equine Sports Zentrum
4246 Schneider Drive
Oregon, WI 53575
lindinhofllc@gmail.com
(608) 445-8531

www.lindinhof.com

Importing top quality dressage horses from Europe. Contact us to find your next dressage star.

Sport Horse Therapeutic Services
Lori Anderson
N8811 Jordan Rd
Waterloo, WI 53594
(920) 350-5479

sporthorsetherapeutics@hotmail.com
www.SportHorseTherapeutics.com

www.facebook.com/SaddleFitterWisconsin/

Certified and skilled Independent saddle fitter offering English and Western saddle fitting, wool re-flocking, billet repair. Also, farm clinics and onsite courses available: CESMT, specializing in Myofascial Release, Stress Point Therapy, Structural Correction, and Reiki.

Caryn Vesperman - USEF/USDF "r" Judge
W1619 King Road
Brooklyn, WI 53521
touchstonefarm@gmail.com
(608) 455-2208

USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze medalist. Shown through Grand Prix. Available for USEF/USDF-recognized dressage and US eventing shows and schooling shows.

BREEDERS

Valerie Ahl
Pen Bryn Farm
4321 State Road 138
Oregon, WI 53575
(608) 698-7924
veahl@wisc.edu

Specialize in breeding world-class bloodlines including Lingham, Damsey, Weltmeyer and Winterprinz.

Shannon Langer
Maple Run Farm LLC
W3465 Markert Road
Helensville, WI 53137
maplerunfarm@yahoo.com
(262) 424-7641

Hanoverian breeder for 20 years. Top dressage bloodlines with emphasis on exceptional minds, type and movement.

Jackie Luebke-Puetz
15034 Co. Rd. X
Kiel, WI 53042-9706
cvestor@aol.com
(920) 693-3367

Standing Section A Welsh stallion, Too Cute to Shoot, bay, 13.2 h, cuter than a bug's ear and several times qualified for USDF breeding championships. In 2018, was third in halter for Welsh Association.

*

Renew Today!

Time to renew your membership and your stable, instructor, business and/or breeder listings.

The cost is so reasonable!
See forms toward end of this newsletter or go online at wdcta.org.

**WISCONSIN DRESSAGE & COMBINED TRAINING ASSOCIATION
2021 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

MEMBERSHIP TERM: December 1 – November 30

___ RENEWAL ___ NEW - Referred by _____



LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ MI _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

FARM OR BUSINESS NAME _____

New members: Please tell us how you learned about WDCTA/
 ___ Clinic or Event
 ___ Midwest Horse Fair
 ___ USDF ___ USEF
 ___ USEA
 ___ Pony Club
 ___ Facebook
 ___ Current WDCTA member (name) _____
 ___ Web Search
 ___ Other _____

*** Would you like to receive other horse-related mailings that are not affiliated with WDCTA? **YES NO**

DISCIPLINES:

___ Dressage
 ___ Eventing
 ___ Breeder
 ___ OTHER

RIDER STATUS:

___ Professional
 ___ Adult Amateur
 ___ Young Rider (*age 18-21)
 ___ Junior Rider (*age 17 or less)

CHAPTER AFFILIATION:

___ **Southwest** (SW Wisconsin, Madison and surrounding area)
 ___ **Upper Peninsula** (Upper Michigan and northern WI)
 ___ **Central** (Portage, Green Bay, Stevens Point, and central area)
 ___ **Kettle Moraine** (Milwaukee, Sheboygan, FDL and southeast WI)

* Age as of January 1

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION AND FEES (Includes the \$4 increase for USDF.)

- \$164 BUSINESS Membership** – Includes one USDF Group membership; emailed newsletter; one voting privilege; recognition & business card in eQuester, listing & logo on WDCTA website. Also, INCLUDES Stable, Instructor, Breeder & Business listings (choose one or all four) in eQuester & website.
- \$64 FAMILY Membership** - Includes one USDF group membership; emailed newsletter; two voting privileges. USDF requires that an additional USDF membership be purchased for each additional family member. Add \$10 for each additional family member.
 - \$10** Add'l family member name _____ Birth date if age 21 or less _____
 - \$10** Add'l family member name _____ Birth date if age 21 or less _____
- \$52 INDIVIDUAL Membership** (Age 18 & over) . Includes one USDF group membership; emailed newsletter; one voting privilege.
- \$39 JUNIOR Membership** -- Birth date _____ (must be age 17 or less as of January 1st. Do not use in conjunction with a Family Membership. Includes one USDF group membership; emailed newsletter; one voting privilege.

As a member of WDCTA, I may choose to volunteer for Association responsibilities or activities. I expressly agree that my services are being provided as a volunteer and that I am not an employee of the Wisconsin Dressage & Combined Training Association. I am neither entitled to nor expect any present or future salary, wages, or other benefits for these volunteer services. I agree to abide by the WDCTA Standard of Conduct: to act honestly, fairly, ethically and with integrity and treat all WDCTA members with respect and courtesy.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

WDCTA STABLE, INSTRUCTOR, BREEDER, BUSINESS LISTINGS -- Listings on website & eQuester. **Must fill out listing form available on WDCTA website and include payment.** (These listings are free when purchasing a Business Membership.)

- \$10 Stable listing
- \$10 Instructor listing
- \$10 Breeder listing
- \$10 Business listing
- \$35 for all four listings

Make check payable to WDCTA & mail to Diane Brault, 5184 County Road HH, Barneveld, WI 53507
membership@wdcta.org or 608-924-1808

Date Received _____	Check # _____	Amount \$ _____
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Stable, Instructor, Breeder and Business Listing Form

For only \$10 per category or \$35 for all four, you can have your stable, instructor, breeder or business listing appear in the eQuester newsletter and on the WDCTA website. This advertising is for WDCTA members only. Must be a WDCTA member to be listed.

(Please limit your information to 35 words per category.)

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY: STABLE INSTRUCTOR BREEDER BUSINESS

MEMBER NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

STABLE/BUSINESS NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STABLE FACILITY FEATURES: (OUTDOOR/INDOOR ARENA, TURNOUT, LOUNGE, WASH STALL, TRAILS, LESSONS AVAILABLE)

BREEDER INFORMATION: (STANDING STALLIONS, BLOODLINES, BREEDS, ETC.)

BUSINESS INFORMATION: (TYPE OF BUSINESS, DAYS OPEN, HOURS, LOCATION, ETC.)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION: (COMPLETE BELOW)

EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION BACKGROUND: (DO NOT INCLUDE NAMES UNLESS PROVIDING WRITTEN PROOF OF PERMISSION)

YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE: _____

LEVELS WILL TEACH: _____

LEVEL OF RIDING EXPERIENCE: _____

SCHOOL HORSES AVAILABLE: YES _____ NO _____

WILL TRAVEL: YES _____ NO _____

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST: YES _____ NO _____

AWARDS EARNED:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[25]

*Only WDCTA members can be listed.
One name per instructor listing.*



**COMPLETE FORM AND
SEND PAYMENT TO:**

Diane Brault
5184 Co. Rd. HH
Barneveld, WI 53507
608-455-1037
membership@wdcta.org

Instructor/Trainer Profile

For WDCTA Members Only

These questions are only to get the ideas for your profile started. Use as many of them as you want, and add others as needed. Email or mail this sheet and additional pages. The editor will follow up with any additional questions or clarifications.

Please submit some photos of yourself, facility, horses, etc. to:

Caryn Vesperman, newsletter editor
W1619 King Road, Brooklyn, WI 53521
newsletter@wdcta.org



Name: _____
Address: _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
Phone(s): _____
Website: _____ **Email** _____

Teach dressage, jumping, both: _____ **Riding Since Age:** _____

Background History:

Current and Past Instructors/Mentors:

Horses -- Past and Current:

Your Showing/Riding Accomplishments:

Students' Accomplishments:

If you own your facility, describe:

Dream or What Inspires/Motivates You:

Interesting or Amusing Personal Story:

Riding/Training Philosophy or "Motto" or Belief You Try to Pass to Students:

Anything Else?



eQuester Advertising Rates

Mechanicals:

Ad size below. Photos should be submitted as jpegs. Or, mail to editor for scanning. Include self-addressed, stamped envelope for its return.

Deadline:

All calendar submissions, ads and payment must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Make checks out to WDCTA.

WDCTA members receive special rate (in **ORANGE). See calendar information at bottom of page.**

Editor Contact Info:

Caryn Vesperman
newsletter@wdcta.org
 W1619 King Road
 Brooklyn, WI 53521

Description	1 x	6 x	12 x
Business Card 3.5 x 2": In eQuester newsletter with link to email OR website.	\$10 (\$9)	\$50 (\$45)	\$100 (\$90)
Classified Ad Up to 50 words. In eQuester newsletter with link to email OR website.	\$5 (\$4)	\$25 (\$20)	\$50 (\$45)
Quarter Page 3.5 x 5": In eQuester newsletter with links to email OR website.	\$15 (\$12)	\$85 (\$70)	\$150 (\$135)
Half Page 7.5 x 5" or 3.75 x 10": In eQuester newsletter with links to email AND website.	\$20 (\$15)	\$100 (\$90)	\$195 (\$175)
Full Page 7.5 x 10": In eQuester newsletter with links to email AND website.	\$40 (\$35)	\$150 (\$175)	\$300 (\$350)
Website Banner Ad 180x150 pixels, and can be a .jpg, .gif or .png	N/A	\$200 (\$150)	\$400 (\$300)

eQuester and Website Calendar of Events Submissions: *For WDCTA members only. (Up to 20 words).*

INCLUDE THIS: Date > Event > Location > Contact (Name/Phone/Email) > WDCTA-Sponsored Event (Yes/No)

WDCTA Event: Link to organizer's email and registration form, if applicable

NON-WDCTA-Sponsored Event: Link to organizer's email only.

Member-hosted private riding clinics cannot be advertised in the newsletter at this time.