

## Shop Talk

# 'The Bills' on Training at Home for the Show Ring

Show Chic is a retail store and mobile tack business based in Wellington. The business hosts speakers from all aspects of the show scene nearly monthly in their series, Shop Talk. This month featured Bill Warren and Bill McMullin, partners in their training business, Warren-McMullin Dressage. Bill Warren is a FEI 4\*, USEF "S" judge and USDF Gold Medalist, having trained several horses to Grand Prix. Bill McMullin is a USEF "R" judge, USDF Gold Medalist and USDF certified instructor and faculty member.

By Caryn Vesperman

The hour-long presentation was informal with much opportunity for questions. The discussion centered on how correct training at home should prepare the horse and rider for a correct performance in the show ring. "The Bills" (as they are affectionately known) focused on how developing collection begins at Second Level. The lack of collection starts to cause the loss of points from **Second Level** and on.

"Every level lays the foundation for the next level," said Bill M. Some of the movements and exercises that help develop collection include shoulder-in and haunches-in, where the haunches must step under the horse's body. The turn on the haunches and walk pirouettes also demonstrate and help with collection. Both must have bend and should not step sideways, which avoids the collection. Also to note: the first step of haunches-in and walk pirouettes is *the* most important.



Bill Warren (left) and Bill McMullin (right) talk about show preparation.

*"Impulsion isn't speed.  
Collection isn't slow."*

- Bill Warren

At **Third Level**, Bill W. cautioned about over-bending the neck in the half-passes. "The neck should stay centered at the base of the neck," he said. He also advised to pay attention to the canter in flying changes: "The canter should be the same before and after the change."

At **Fourth Level** when riding walk pirouettes and your horse gets stuck for a stride, ask yourself why. Usually it's because the walk has lost its energy. When schooling walk pirouettes (and turns on the haunches), don't start them from a haunches-in position. Instead, focus on controlling the shoulders and then not losing the haunches.

The following is important at all levels:

### Reinback

"The reinback needs to be practiced, starting with a balanced and square halt. The quality of the halt sets the stage for the reinback and should look like the horse lifts its feet and walks back, not drags back," said Bill W. He also explained there is no halt at the end of a reinback: "Riders must move off directly from the reinback."

### Finish the Exercise

After shoulder-in, haunches-in, renvers and half-passes, the horse and rider must end going straight.

### Corners

Using the corners are important for the set-up of the next movement, to regain balance, to collect.

Bill's last bit of advice: "The USEF Rulebook is a wealth of information. Use it for understanding what is required of each movement."

# The New Year is Here—Time for Mile Markers and Goals

Every January brings new plans, new goals, new adventures, and while the winter cold and snow has its disadvantages (unless you're a winter sport enthusiast), one of the good things when you're stuck inside is having time to think about the year to come. It's an opportunity to think about training goals and, perhaps, even show goals.

If you're like me, you need mile markers—stepping stones—toward your goal. Goals might be improving the renvers and travers, sitting the trot without looking like a rag doll or a bouncing sack of potatoes, getting more shoulder lift and freedom in the half-pass, developing flying changes that aren't the "BANZAI" type after the change. For one rider I know, it's overcoming fear of falling off; for another, it's going to a show for the first time in several years. Any goal, big or small, is laudable and—with the right support—most likely achievable. Who are we to judge or limit ourselves or others on their goals?

For improving the renvers and travers, the mile marker might be working at getting the right angle and, in another week or so, adding the bend, then keeping the tempo without slowing down, to finally putting it all together. Maybe the half-pass isn't uphill and fluid—not because the haunches are falling behind but because the horse is falling on its inside shoulder; then the mile marker might be focusing on getting the horse "up" and slowing the shoulders, not pushing the hindquarters sideways more in an effort to catch up with the shoulders.

The key is to breakdown the components, or small mile markers, within a movement to obtain the goal. As Janet Foy, FEI 5\* judge, USEF "S" judge, trainer and author told me in a recent lesson, "You can't fix the movement by continuing to do the movement. You have to evaluate what part is going wrong, focus on improving that, and then go back to the movement."

If one of your goal is showing for the first time or showing again, don't forget to sign up for WDCTA awards. (Go to the awards section on [wdcta.org](http://wdcta.org) for the information about traditional dressage, western dressage, eventing and in-hand.) This is another self-motivating goal, at least for me. Showing is expensive, so I want to prepare as much as possible. One of my personal mile markers is to get my mare, Diamond Dureza, more "chill" about showing, especially at new venues where she gets extremely tense and strong, and then I react by freezing and holding on for dear life. So this winter, I plan to ride her at as many new arenas as possible. I even reserved a spot to school in the international arena at the Global Festival show grounds. While it won't be like schooling at an actual show there, the bleachers and flapping VIP tent will be there, and it will be good for me too.

As Benjamin Frankling said, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." Franklin may not have been a dressage rider or eventer, but his observation is spot on for us as well. Here's to meeting your mile markers and goals in 2024!

*Caryn*

**NOTE:** *This is your last issue with your trainer, facility, breeder or business ad, so please renew. The form outlining all our advertising costs is on page eight. The membership application is on page seven. Both are also on [wdcta.org](http://wdcta.org). We appreciate your support and continued membership!*



## Caryn Vesperman Editor

All advertisements, articles and photographs should be submitted by the 15th of the preceding month of publication, unless prior arrangements are made for additional time.

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

Payment should be submitted via PayPal through the WDCTA website ([wdcta.org](http://wdcta.org)) or mailed to the editor with a check made out to WDCTA.

### CONTACT

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# Summary of the 2023 USDF Annual Conference

**By Melinda DeLuca, WDCTA President**

I drove out to the convention in 2022, which was in Kentucky, and stayed only overnight. I had received a call from the veterinarian about my 27-year-old Friesian colicking. So, I got up and drove back home without attending any of the meetings.

This year, I was concerned that something would go wrong at home when I drove seven hours to Omaha, Nebraska for the 2023 USDF Convention, Nov. 29-Dec. 2, but luckily nothing bad happened at home. I preferred not to drive the long distance to Omaha by myself, since I had never been there before. I had met Molly Fine, the president of IDCTA last year in Kentucky, so I invited her to drive to Omaha with me, which she did. We had two good rides, going and coming home without any issues.

During the ride, we discussed the organization of IDCTA compared to how WDCTA was organized. They have numerous volunteers serving on committees on the state board to accomplish shows and events.

I also had discussions with Debby Savage, USDF Region 2 Director. First of all, I didn't know that Region 2 has a website. There is also a Region 2 schooling show awards program. You may want to check out the website: <https://www.usdfregion2.org>.

The main focus of the convention is the BOG (Board of Governors) meetings. Presentations were made by George Williams, USDF President, the treasurer, secretary and USEF board members. Each Group Member Organization (GMO)—like WDCTA—has a specific number of votes at the BOG, based on the number of members. Each GMO has a document, which indicates the number of their votes. WDCTA has six votes.

At the BOG, a presentation was made on the proposed increase of membership dues for 2025. The smallest proposed cost increase is for the GMO membership. When you join WDCTA, a portion of your payment is sent to the USDF. The good thing is that the GMO increase is only one dollar.

The fun thing about the convention was several presentations about horses. One was made by Hilary Clayton about the biomechanics of the



**Sandra Malott, WDCTA Vice President, put together the WDCTA convention basket, which is used in a drawing along with other GMO baskets. Names are called out during the Board of Governors meeting—and you must be present to win. This basket is from Swoon, LLC, located on Vliet Street, Milwaukee.**

horse's neck. The best way the horse's neck is positioned is to have the poll the highest point and the neck level just behind the poll. Another presentation was about horse fitness routines for winter, which showed walking over polls, walking up and down hills and walking onto and off a platform. The last presentation was about conformation. It included taking a picture of your horse, then drawing a line along the horse's head. Then you take the line and put it along other parts of the horse to evaluate the horse's conformation.

I hope we can utilize some of the USDF information for WDCTA activities though out the year. If you have any ideas for activities, please let me know at [wdctapresident@wdcta.org](mailto:wdctapresident@wdcta.org).

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# Calendar

## WDCTA Events

TBD

## Other Events

**Sept. 12-15**

**Region 2 Championships**

Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY

**Oct. 10-13**

**Region 4 Championships**

National Equestrian Center,  
St. Louis, MO

# Member Listings

## INSTRUCTORS

### Jackie Luebke-Puetz

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

Will teach through 2nd Level, earned USDF Brone medal, trained through 4th Level. Served in the past on U&SDF education committee, USEF steward. Will travel.

### Tracey Dikkers

W4835 Aspen Court  
Wild Rose, WI 54984  
traceydikkers@gmail.com

Teaches all levels with 30 years of experience. USEF "r" dressage judge, USDF Bronze and Silver medalist on self-trained horses. Will travel.

### Megan McIsaac

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

FEI trainer, USDF-certified instructor through 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 and WDCTA awards. 16+ years teaching experience. Students competed through GP, earned riding awards and medals. Travel for lessons and clinics.

### Andrea Schten

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

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

### 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. USF "L" graduate with distinction. USDF Associate Certified Instructor. USF Silver Medal. Shown through Prix St. George. Will teach through 4th Level. Specialize in teaching horses and riders correct basics. Will travel.

## STABLES

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(920) 693-3367

Standing Section B 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.

## BUSINESS

**JZ Coan Arts**  
Julie Coan, artist  
4200 University Avenue #115  
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## WDCTA Awards Program

Thinking about showing in 2024? Familiarize yourself with the rules, which include:

- (1) Application must be submitted no later than **1 day** prior to the first day of the show;
- (2) Both rider and owner must be current WDCTA members (for in-hand classes, the handler does not have to be a member);
- (3) In dressage, one score may be from a schooling show, but it must be from an "L" candidate or USEF/USDF "r" judge or higher. (No schooling shows are allowed for in-hand awards. Western dressage allows more than one schooling show to count. Eventing allows mini-events scores to count.)

This is not a complete list of rules and eligibility. For all rules, go to the awards pages at [wdcta.org](http://wdcta.org). Contact the awards chair for questions.

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 \_\_\_ 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)

**AFFILIATION:**

- \_\_\_ General Membership
- \_\_\_ Upper Peninsula Chapter (Upper Michigan and northern WI)

\* Age as of January 1

**MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION AND FEES**

- \$164 BUSINESS Membership** – Includes one USDF Group membership; emailed newsletter; one voting privilege; recognition & business card ad in **eQuester**, listing & logo on WDCTA website. Also, **INCLUDES** Stable, Instructor, Breeder & Business listings (chose one or all four) in both 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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**  
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**Mechanicals:**

Ad size below. Photos should be submitted as .jpgs. 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:**

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 W1619 King Road  
 Brooklyn, WI 53521

Description	1 x	6 x	12 x
<b>Business Card</b> 3.5 x 2": In eQuester newsletter with link to email OR website.	\$10 (S9)	\$50 (S45)	\$100 (S90)
<b>Classified Ad</b> Up to 50 words. In eQuester newsletter with link to email OR website.	\$5 (S4)	\$25 (S20)	\$50 (S45)
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<b>Half Page</b> 7.5 x 5" or 3.75 x 10": In eQuester newsletter with links to email AND website.	\$20 (S15)	\$100 (S90)	\$195 (S175)
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<b>Website Banner Ad</b> 180x150 pixels, and can be a .jpg, .gif or .png	N/A	\$200 (S150)	\$400 (S300)

**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.

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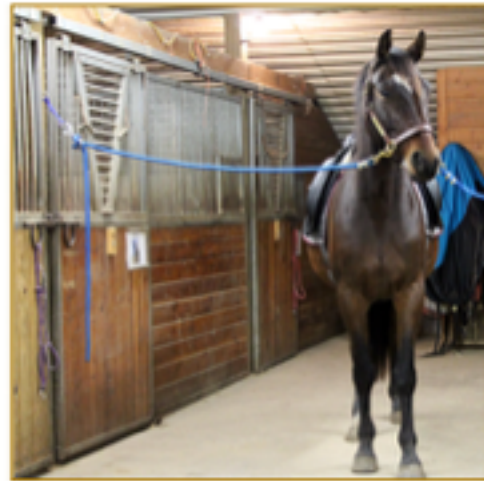
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