



“It may be a great ride, an average ride or even a frustrating ride; but....any day that you get to ride is a good day.”

- Jennifer O. Bryant, editor, *USDF Connections*

When I read this quote, my first thought was how true it is and how when I've had frustrating or sad days in my personal life, once I'm in the saddle, everything is blocked out except for the horse and me. It also reminded me of when I was a kid, when everything seemed to be crashing around me (and these teen dramas ranged from a friend's comment, not getting new athletic shoes, my parent's divorce, having to move to a new town), somehow being able to cry into my horse's mane always made things better.

My second thought was about how many people make our sport possible—and that allows us all to have a good day with our horses. So many people are committed to keeping the sport strong, our horses' welfare at the forefront, and dressage relevant for the future.

Trainers: At barns and shows, I'm impressed how trainers balance riding their own horses and being there for their clients. It has to be mentally and physically exhausting!

Breeders: I did a little breeding a few years ago (Diamond Dureza was my last one), so I have a glimpse into what a difficult life that is: finding and keeping good brood mares healthy and “productive”, stud fees, veterinary costs, raising them up, the disappointment of not having a mare get in foal, losing the foal, an injury—not to mention the costs of getting them under saddle if not sold as foals...

Sponsors: Shows, symposia, clinics, special events—many of these would be unaffordable if it wasn't for sponsorship support.

Judges: In my last judge apprenticeship in early November in Scottsdale, AZ, we were lucky to have the dressage icon, Hilda Gurney, as our mentor judge. One comment she made really stuck in my head: “It's in the judge's hands if this sport survives.” She said dressage is one of the hardest sports to be involved in, and if judges aren't encouraging and helpful, riders will move on to an

easier sport. She didn't mean that we should be “Santa Claus” judges, but unless the rider is being abusive to the horse, we need to find a way to make comments that help riders understand and improve their riding when they make mistakes. It's important to be honest and judge what we see according to the standard, but we need to encourage riders so they don't feel hopeless and put down.

Hilda also pointed out that it takes less time to become a doctor, lawyer or most any other highly educated professional than it does to become a USEF-licensed “S” dressage judge. I must admit, I hadn't thought of it that way before, so I don't know if that was an encouraging or discouraging view!

It was clear Hilda loves the sport and loves horses—as most judges do. She is in her 80s and says she rides eight to 10 horses every morning before teaching the rest of the day.

Volunteers: Could we run a show, clinic or other event without them? The costs of showing are high enough, but imagine what they'd be without volunteers. How about those that volunteer for USDF positions or for local GMOs like WDEA?

On that last note, I want to thank the members who took on positions for the 2026 WDEA board. They are giving up some of their personal time to keep WDEA going and relevant for the future. It takes commitment to juggle family and work responsibilities—and still carve out time to dedicate to the sport, helping to strengthen it for the future. Further into this newsletter you'll see who is on our board for 2026.

Here's to a successful 2026!

- Caryn Vesperman, WDEA President (and Newsletter Editor for a little while longer)

2026 Wisconsin Dressage & Eventing Association Board of Directors

By Caryn Vesperman, WDEA President

Below is the list of our wonderful volunteers for the 2026 WDEA board. Many 2025 board members are returning, which gives guidance to the new members on the board and allows for the passing on of organizational knowledge including our history, past decisions, events and activities, as well as the reasons behind our policies and “rules.” You can reach these individuals (including me) with your questions and ideas by checking out their email addresses on our website: WisconsinDressage.org.

Important Note: I took on the role of president in hopes that someone would step forward and take over the position as newsletter editor. If anyone is interested, please let me know because I can’t handle both positions and stay married. (Just kidding about that married part.) After someone steps forward, I will continue to contribute articles and photos, as the new editor desires—and I hope all of our members will contribute as well.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank the 2026 board members for your commitment and dedication. With our new name and logo, I see nothing but a solid future with creative ideas to keep us vibrant and responsive to our members, while keeping to the standards and ideals of our primary parent organization, the United States Dressage Federation (USDF).

President	Caryn Vesperman
Vice President	Stephanie Severn
Secretary	Carol McKinnon
Treasurer	Morgan Winter
Membership Chair	Diane Brault
Newsletter Editor	OPEN
Webmaster	Stephanie Severn
Member-at-Large	Melinda DeLuca
Member-at-Large	Mary Hanneman
Member-at-Large	Heather Klopp
Member-at-Large	Celeste Pauli
Member-at-Large	Cindy Riffle
Eastern Chapter President	Nicole Trapp
Eastern Chapter Alternate	Tammy Risseuw
Eastern Chapter Representative	Jessica Kaczmarek
<u>COMMITTEES & REPS</u>	
Awards Committee Chair	Celeste Pauli (supported by Sandra Malott)
Wisconsin Horse Council	Heather Klopp



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) or mailed to the editor with a check made out to WDCTA.

CONTACT

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Brooklyn, WI 53521
Call/text:
(608) 695-9914



Double Duty

Like others who have stepped up to serve on the 2026 board of directors, I am serving “double duty” on the board, as I’ll be serving as president and newsletter editor. For now, I can handle it. I’ve always enjoyed doing the newsletter, and I was president a few years ago, so I shouldn’t sink under the responsibilities...for the short term. However, serving two positions is not something I can do for long. I’m hoping a member will look at the editor position and think it would be a great way to use their personal or career skills and give back to the organization.

Related to these two board commitments, I’ve been working on a member survey. I had so hoped to send it out at the same time as this newsletter, but with meetings, editing a Hanoverian breed magazine, driving for three days to Florida and getting my horses and myself settled in, I’ve been a little preoccupied! As evidence, look at the photo of the inside of my trailer where I live for five months! I’m organized now, but only because my husband spent

two days hooking up the water, electric and septic, scrubbing out the horse compartment (where I have my overflow storage), buying groceries, and helping me organize my stuff at the barn. If it wasn’t for him, I would probably still be buried! Fortunately we did have some time for fun

before he headed back to Wisconsin—including several hikes (with alligator sightings) and dinners out with friends.

Anyway, I hope to be able to focus on WDEA in the role of only president very shortly. I welcome your ideas and your volunteerism for our future events and activities. Also, watch for information on our annual meeting and awards banquet, which members from the Eastern Chapter are already working on. It’s shaping up to be a fun event.

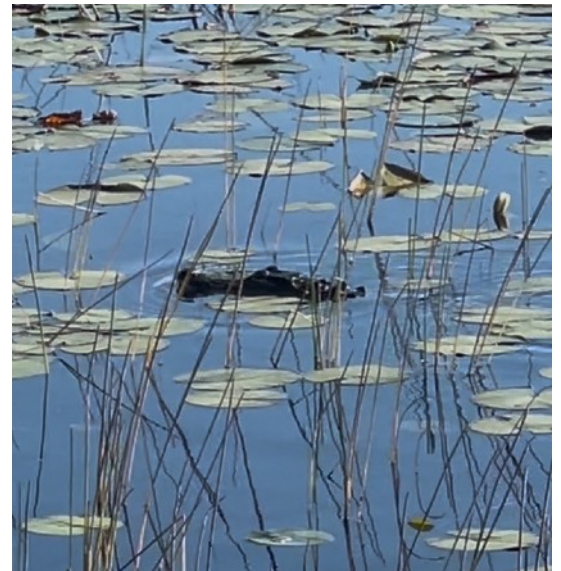
Again, my heartfelt thanks to our new board members. I couldn’t do it without you!

Caryn



(Above) Yes, I’m “publicly” admitting how messy my tiny home was for about five days.

(Below) Fun to hike and watch the alligators try to get a duck dinner. They failed while we watched.



Member Listings

INSTRUCTORS

Andrea Schten-Achtenhagen
Colt's Neck Equestrian Center
N76W36158 Saddlebrook Lane
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
aschten2000@yahoo.com
(262) 470-4557

Background experience: Has worked with multiple Olympic trainers. Ridden through Grand Prix. USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, plus multiple regional championships. Will teach Intro to Grand Prix. School horses available. 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.

STABLES

Colt's Neck Equestrian Center
Andrea Schten-Achtenhagen
N76W36158 Saddlebrook Lane
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
aschten2000@yahoo.com
(262) 470-4557

Heated 20 stall barn, heated 72' x 200' indoor arena, safe board turnout with pastures, large outdoor arena.

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

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

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BREEDERS

Rebecca Lewison
Grand View Farm
Barneveld, WI
(608) 437-4776

Breeding Hanoverians with bloodlines of top stallions from all over the world and carefully selected Hanoverian premium broodmares.

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

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Support WDEA—and Promote Your Business or Event!

It's a new membership year, so sign up for stable, instructor, breeder and business listings and support WDEA with ads in the newsletter and on our website.

Our costs are VERY reasonable (haven't changed in more than 10 years!), and it's for a good cause!

Member Listings

BUSINESS

Barn Besties

Stephanie Severn/Megan McIsaac
4246 Schneider Road
Oregon, WI 53575
(608) 213-8925

barnbestiesllc@gmail.com

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/@BarnyardBestiesWI/featured)

[@BarnyardBestiesWI/featured](https://www.youtube.com/@BarnyardBestiesWI/featured)

Stephanie and Megan have created Barn Besties to build an online community. They provide videos on running and managing horse farms. Videos include building a facility, fencing, arena footing, equipment, barn tours and much more. Check out their YouTube channel.

Lindinhof Equine Sports Zentrum

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

lindinhof.com

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

Plum Lake Equestrian Center

Debra Stephenson
8177 Plum Lake Station Rd
Sayner, WI 54560
(414) 312-1630

plumlakeequinectr@gmail.com

plumlakeequestriancenter.com

A 60-acre north woods venue for your special event: workshops, retreats, weddings, fundraisers, barn dances, hiking, biking, trail riding, horse camps and more!

Caryn Vesperman

USEF/USDF "r" Judge

W1619 King Road

Brooklyn, WI 53521

touchstonefarm@gmail.com

(608) 455-2208

USDF Gold, Silver, Bronze medalist. Continuing education includes scribing for international levels with U.S. and foreign judges (including World Cup in Omaha), accepted into the "R" judge program, and current two horses training at FEI levels—were unstarted and brought up the levels. Available for USEF/USDF-recognized dressage shows, eventing and schooling shows.

Calendar

WDCTA Events

Watch for updates!

Other Events

Dec. 3-7

USDF Annual Convention

Lexington, KY

More information go to:

usdf.org/convention.

Jan. 19-20, 2026

Adequan/USDF FEI-Level

Trainers Conference

Featuring: Heike Kemmer and

Christof Umbach

Loxahatchee, FL

Visit USDF.org for more info, including registration.

2026

April 17-19

Midwest Horse Fair

Madison, WI

Sept. 17-20

Region 2 Championships

Lamplight Equestrian Center

Wayne, IL

Oct. 1-4

Region 4 Championships

National Equestrian Center

Lake St. Louis, MO

Oct. 29-Nov. 1

US Dressage Finals

World Equestrian Center

Wilmington, OH

Ride Along for Advice From Trainers
& Farm Owners, Tour Farms, Learn
to Avoid Common Mistakes When Building
Your Dream Farm

Farm
Fresh
Advice



Learning
All The
Things!

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YouTube: @BarnyardBestiesWI

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finding your next Dressage partner.

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Established 1980s Dressage
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