

eQuester

Wisconsin Dressage & Combined Training's Monthly Newsletter

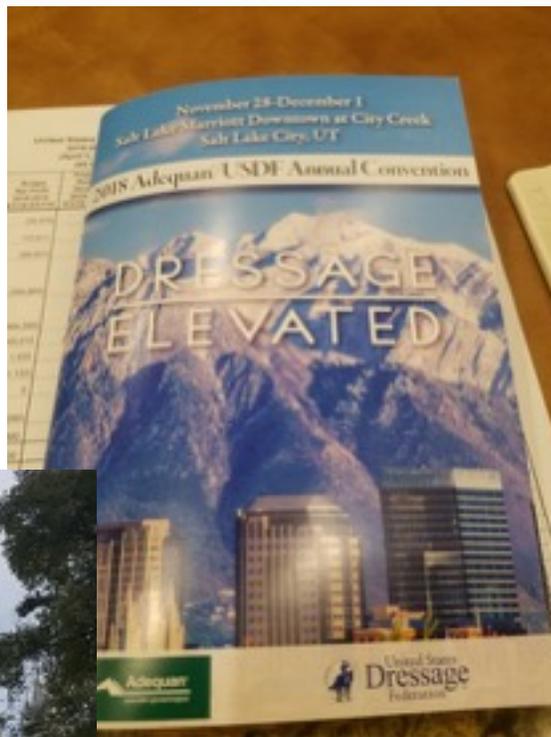
Dressage Elevated at USDF Convention

By Stephanie Severn, WDCTA President

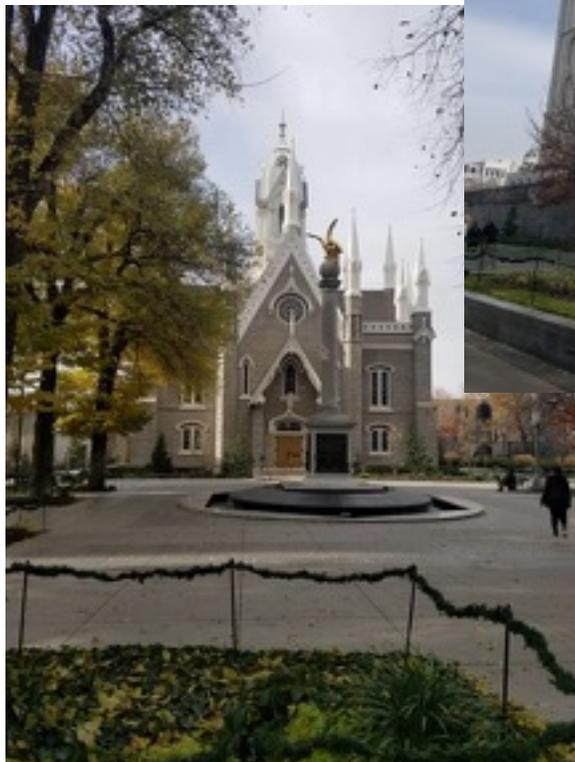
I had the pleasure to attend the USDF Convention in Salt Lake City, UT Nov. 28 – Dec. 2, representing WDCTA. While there were so many things presented, which could fill pages and pages, there were two over-riding and important issues which I will discuss more in length here.

Initially I was going to break this into two articles for the January and February issues; however, I decided the information is vital for our members to read in January, so please bear with me on this rather long article. At a minimum, make sure you read about the dues increase and Safe Sport.

This convention was so busy I did not have much time to explore the downtown area around the hotel. I had 90 minutes on Saturday and was able to visit the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) areas around their church and convention center.



Above: USDF Convention program. Left-right: Church of the Latter-Day Saints assembly hall, temple and tabernacle.



Continued on next page

USDF Convention continued

For equestrian sports, this is the United States Equestrian Federation, or USEF. The USDF has adopted the USEF Safe Sport Policy, promoting the safety and welfare of horses and athletes. USDF is committed to providing information, resources, and a protocol, so all members of the equestrian community have awareness, tools, and a support structure to ensure a safe and positive environment for equestrians to develop their skills.

The USEF and USDF depend on the eyes and ears of its athletes, coaches, and designees to support Safe Sport policies. It is requested that all who participate in equestrian sport become familiar with the content of the USEF Safe Sport Policy, the U.S. Center for Safe Sport's Safe Sport Code, complete the Safe Sport Training modules,

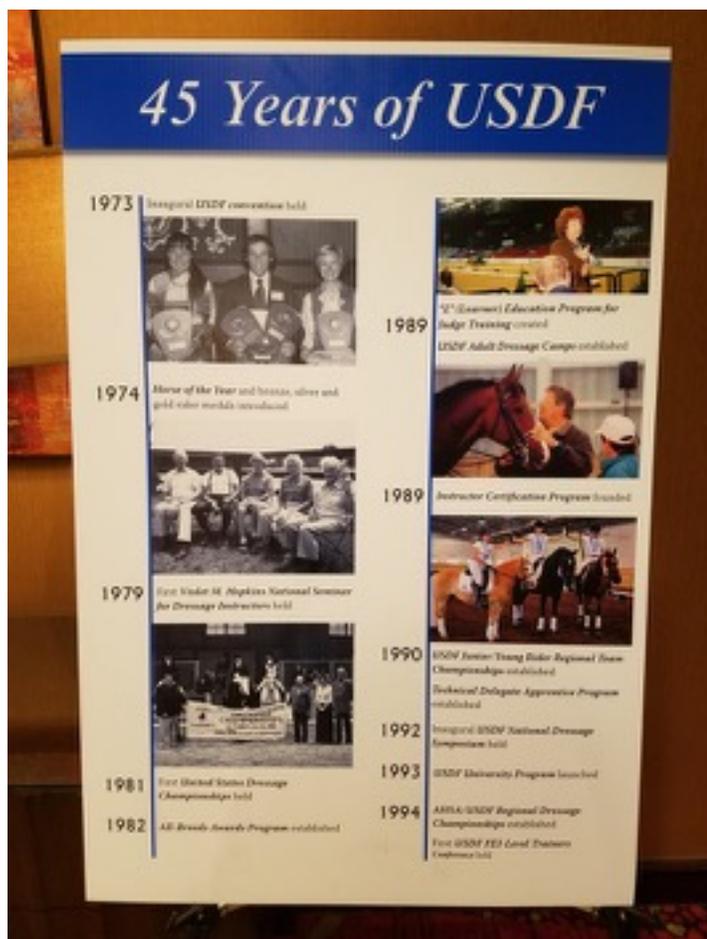
and be mindful of its guidelines during training sessions and competitions. You do not need to be a USEF member to take the training. As part of the USDF Safe Sport Initiative, USDF Certified Instructors and "L" Graduates are required to complete the Safe Sport Training provided by the U.S. Center for Safe Sport, along with other identified volunteers working with our youth. To complete the Safe Sport Training modules, visit the USEF website, log in, and the link to the Safe Sport Training modules will be in your USEF Membership dashboard. Once registered, three activities must be completed in the training: Sexual Misconduct Awareness Education, Mandatory Reporting, and Emotional and Physical Misconduct.

If you are required to complete the training and are not a member of USEF, contact USDF for further

instructions. As of Jan. 1, 2019, every USEF adult member (18 years of age or older) with a Competing Membership must complete USEF's Safe Sport Training. All licensed USEF officials must also complete Safe Sport training. A 30-day grace period to complete the SafeSport training will be provided to all members who renew or join on or after Dec. 1, 2018. Members joining prior to Dec. 1, 2018 will have until Jan. 1, 2019 to complete the training. Those who do not complete the training within the grace period will be ineligible to participate in USEF activities, including competitions.

The USEF expects the U.S. Center for Safe Sport to expand the requirements as this Federal law continues to be interpreted and carried out. USDF warned that eventually they

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Posters at the convention highlighting some USDF milestones over the last 45 years.

USDF Convention continued

expect all members, including GMO members who do not compete, to have to take this training annually. I have created a page on our website which provides this information as well as links to the Safe Sport Code, and the USEF Safe Sport information. Please visit our webpage and look for Safe Sport on the links on the left side of the page or go to the USDF or USEF websites. It takes about 5 minutes to register on the SafeSport website. First, go to your USEF log in. You'll need your USEF number as you will need to link SafeSport with USEF. The training itself will take some a few hours; however, you can start and stop as needed.

Shh, Don't Say "Freestyle"

Probably the hottest, most contentious topic at the convention this year was the USEF rule change that went into effect on Dec. 1, regarding the minimum score requirement to qualify to ride a freestyle. The rule (DR129.9) increases the minimum score requirement at all levels for all riders from 60% to 63%. If you are on Facebook, you likely saw your feed blowup with discussion about this during the convention. Many people are happy with the increase; however, many more are not happy. I



An example of Salt Lake City's public transportation efforts.

sat with Lilo Fore at the Salt Lake City airport on the way home and had a lovely discussion about this topic. The judges and officials feel the quality of riding in this country has increased sufficiently that this will not impact many riders. USDF and USEF provided data which backed this up: only 9% of riders would be affected. (Of note, originally, they wanted an increase to 70%, then 65%!)

USDF, on advice from the various committees, submitted in spring of 2018, a request to USEF for a change to this rule. In order to align with the release of the new dressage tests on Dec. 1 (Did you read that? There are new tests.), USDF asked for an *extraordinary* rule change, which 'fast tracks' it through USEF, as I understand. Here is where things went awry, as I understand. Normally proposed rule changes are posted so ordinary people such as you and me can review and provide comments back to USEF on the proposal. From what I am told, and I cannot verify, USEF messed this up, and didn't post the rule change for comments. I was also told it was USDF's misstep that they didn't make members aware, but I don't believe that, due to the discussions I was involved with at convention. The fair thing to say is many people were unaware, they are mad, and they are blaming both USDF and USEF. To be concise, there was a major lack of communication to the members. If the rule change was not an extraordinary request, it likely would not have been voted on and taken effect until mid-2019. Again, licensed officials wanted it to line up along with the release of the new 2019 dressage tests on Dec. 1 (There it is again—new tests!), so they asked for an *extraordinary* rule change. This single rule change blew up the BOG (Board of Governors) meeting for two days. It blew up committee meetings. It was, without a doubt, the hottest, most derisive topic. At



Stephanie Severn (far right) joins other Region 2 convention attendees (l-r): Lil Kane, Emma Kane and Amy Grahn. Emma received the 2018 Youth Volunteer of the Year award.

the end of BOG on Friday, a motion had been presented, requesting the USDF Executive Board draft a letter to USEF asking for the rule to be rescinded. For clarity, USEF owns the rules. All USDF does is recommend changes. Discussion of this motion carried over to Saturday's BOG and threatened to push us way over our time for elections and other matters that needed discussion and voting. Fortunately, the question was called, and the motion passed. Let me be clear on what the motion did and did NOT do. It did *not* affect the rule and the rule is in effect. The USDF executive committee must draft a letter to USEF *asking* for the rule to be rescinded. The rule is in effect and can only be changed by USEF. Here are the problems I foresee. First, the USEF won't meet again on rule changes until spring 2019. Second, USEF has a rule stating that any rule that has been changed must not be changed for two years. So, in my opinion, do not expect any clarity until next summer at the earliest.

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USDF Convention continued

What's That About New Tests?

That is correct. There are new dressage tests which went into effect Dec.1. Both USDF and USEF have new tests. They are effective now through Nov. 30, 2022. The new national level tests are available here (<https://www.usdf.org/downloads/forms/index.asp?TypePass=Tests>).

And Then There Were Tears

While I was in Salt Lake City, I was contacted by my friend, Deanna, and asked to speak with The Dressage Foundation (TDF) about the requirements for setting up a new grant or possibly donating to an existing fund, as a memorial. Region 2 Grand Prix dressage trainer, Amanda "Mandy" Johnson, was losing her fight with triple-negative breast cancer, and she, her husband and their families wanted to provide a legacy in her name for the good of the sport, as a scholarship or grant. I met with Jenny from TDF Saturday afternoon, after the last educational presentation for the convention, and was able to relay the details back to Mandy's family. Less than an hour later I had received the sad news of Amanda's passing. It made for a very emotional, tearful end to the convention.

I am happy to say that Mandy's husband has a GoFundMe campaign started to fund a new grant through TDF, and it has met the initial goal of \$15,000 to start the grant at TDF. Hopefully soon we will hear more about how they will shape the grant around Mandy's wishes. If you are interested in contributing, the link is:

(<https://www.gofundme.com/bq36w-amanda-johnson-memorial-fund>).

Eventually you will be able to donate directly to the grant via TDF.



Two photos of Amanda Johnson, courtesy of John Borys, photographer.



Balancing Opportunities and Reality



Caryn Vesperman
Editor

All advertisements, articles and photographs (with photo release) should be submitted by the 15th of the preceding month of publication.

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
(608) 455-2208
W1619 King Road
Brooklyn, WI 53521
newsletter@wdcta.org



It's a new year, and an important lesson I learned in 2018 was how precious life, family and friends are. I also came to realize—and embrace—that if an opportunity presents itself, take it! Yes, we have to balance our adult responsibilities, but if something you've always wanted to do comes along, find a way to do it! Don't look back and "wish you would have."

Besides my own rough journey in 2018, I was reminded of how important it is to grab hold of opportunities when a friend of mine, Amanda Johnson, died this past November as a result of a rare type of breast cancer. I've known Mandy since she was 16 years old, when she came to try out a horse I had for sale: Glissade. A couple of weeks earlier, a woman had come to try Glissade, driving up in a high-end sports car. Not only was I uncomfortable with how she rode him, but she asked me to come down on his price. (Did I mention high-end sports car?!) I declined, mostly because I wasn't comfortable with her riding.

Then along came Mandy. I liked how she rode the horse and her entire demeanor. Her mother, Barb, took me aside and asked if I would come down on the price because he was just out of their budget. This time, I was happy to say yes. Over the years, it was such a pleasure and source of pride for me to watch the two of them progress through the levels, including the Young Rider competitions. More often than not, she and Glissade beat expensive, imported and already trained horses. I watched Mandy grow into a successful professional, bringing other horses to the FEI levels. She always had a smile ready, a positive comment, and was quick to give the horses the credit.



Amanda and Glissade

About two years ago, I learned of her cancer diagnosis. I watched her continue with her life, again always a smile on her face. I was proud to watch her give a demonstration ride at the World Cup in Omaha, fondly recalling the 16-year-old teen who came to try out Glissade. I also remember our last conversation at Silverwood Farms this summer when we both compared notes of what we were dealing with.

And then...she lost her battle.



I will miss her, but I will not forget what I learned from her. Have courage, keep a positive attitude, smile, and focus on what makes you happy.

I look forward to how a scholarship in her name through The Dressage Foundation will carry on her legacy.

As Mandy would undoubtedly echo: be a responsible adult, but don't let opportunities pass you by. You might not get a second chance.

Here's to taking on that wish list with a smile in 2019!

Caryn

WDCTA Conference and Awards Banquet

Saturday, Mar. 23, 2019

Location: Banquet Hall of Harley Davidson
6200 Millpond Rd, Madison, WI 53718

Tentative Schedule:

- 10-11:30 a.m. Shopping at English Tack Supply, plus a Silent Auction
- 11:30-1 p.m. Lunch, Annual Meeting, Awards
- 1-1:45 p.m. Chair Yoga with Kelley Shetter-Ruiz (*Participate as you would like – inclusive of all abilities.*)
- 1:45 p.m. Break
- 2-3:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: Matt McLaughlin
- 3:30-4:30 p.m. Shopping, Conclusion of Silent Auction

Lunch: Catered by Blue Plate Catering, with gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options offered. Snacks, coffee, and tea will be available throughout the day.

About Our Guest Speakers

Kelley Shetter-Ruiz is a trainer, instructor and certified yoga teacher who uses yoga principles to improve riders' knowledge, mind and body awareness, compassion and breathing.



Cost:

Registration before March 1

- Awards Luncheon and Conference: \$45 Members and \$55 for Non-Members
- Conference Only: \$25 Members and \$35 for Non-Members

After March 1, a \$10 fee will be added to all registrations.



Matt McLaughlin was initially influenced by USDF Hall of Fame member and recognized father of American dressage, Chuck Grant. Matt began studying dressage and the art of training horses in haute école for exhibition performances at an early age. He spent seven years working for the Royal Lipizzaner Stallion Show, where he trained as many as 16 stallions and riders at a time. In 2011, Matt was head trainer at the Arabian Nights Dinner Theatre where he restructured the equestrian production's dressage, liberty, western and reining acts. Matt has continued to hone his skills as a trainer, clinician and performer by learning and adapting techniques gleaned from training experiences as well as his work with industry notables in the dressage, western, and trick training disciplines. Matt has successfully trained horses through Grand Prix that have gone on to compete nationally and internationally as well as multiple horses finished in haute école including Capriole, Courbette and Levade. He has earned the USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Rider Medals. As the first step in the USEF judges program, Matt graduated with distinction from the USDF "L" education program in 2011.

One Form Per Person

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Email _____

- Awards Luncheon and Conference: _____ \$45 Member OR _____ \$55 Non-Member
- Conference Only: _____ \$25 Member OR _____ \$35 Non-Member

Add \$10 if being sent in after March 1.

Questions? Contact Haley Madden at (608) 770-1811 or SW@wdcta.org
Register? Send this form with check made out to WDCTA-Southwest Chapter to:
Cathy Wunderlich, N9161 Legler Road, Brooklyn, WI 53521

Road Trip for Learning

By Kathy Caspary

The UP Chapter of WDCTA figured a fall road trip would be a great way to end the summer/fall. We had discussed going someplace as a group, hopefully one that included our northern Wisconsin members.

Ken Borden, Jr. was scheduled to give a dressage clinic at Dunroven Farm in Rhinelander, WI Oct. 26-28. So on Saturday, the 27th, four of us took a three-hour road trip from Houghton to Rhinelander. It would have been a closer club activity for the Wisconsin members, but they were unable to attend. We also had our annual meeting at the farm with election of officers. Our new president is Donna Destrampe; vice president, Kathy Caspary; new secretary is Lynn Madison, and Tina Ozanich will continue as Treasurer.



Dunroven Farm is such a beautiful place to visit. Kathy Kopp and her family do such a great job landscaping around the barns. It is just a pleasure to look around with everything in its place. Kathy is a gracious hostess, making everyone feel welcome along with feeding the participants a great lunch. Echo Crane Tack Shop was set up in the upstairs observation area with lots of good things to look at and buy!

Thank goodness for the time zone difference, as we gained an hour of lesson time and didn't have to leave Houghton in heavy darkness. When we arrived, we were able to observe a young Friesian mare learn to lengthen her stride and relax. Ken has a good eye and so much experience to help put the horse in the correct frame for her level. The horse ended up looking quite relaxed. Another rider was on one of Kathy's higher level school

Pictured: Tina Ozanich, Kathy Caspary, Kathy Kopp on Owen, Donna Destrampe, Ken Borden, Jr. and Lynn Madison.

horses. Ken pointed out that the rider needs to allow both hips to go with the motion of the horse. This horse made his rider work hard, but under Ken's tutelage, the pair started to work well together, looking like they have been partners for a long time.

Each horse/rider worked on similar exercises, giving good tools to all of us watching to go home and try on our mounts. Ken is entertaining, witty and tells great stories about horses and riders he has worked with over the years. He has been coming to Kathy's place for about 20 years. Several of us from Houghton have taken lessons with him over the years, making this trip a nice reunion of dressage enthusiasts.

WDCTA Awards Banquet
Reserve the date: Saturday,
Mar. 23
More details in this issue.



WDCTA – KM Chapter Clinic with Anita Adams
 Rosebury Farm, Mukwonago
 Sat & Sun Feb 2-3, 2019



**WORK IN-HAND OR RIDDEN WITH IN-HAND SUPPORT
 LONG LINING TO IMPROVE FLEXIBILITY
 ESTABLISH BASICS FOR WORK IN-HAND**



Anita Adams has devoted her career to principles of classical dressage as taught to her by Karl Mikolka, former Chief Rider of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. She was an apprentice under Karl Mikolka at Tempel Farm for six years in the training of both Lipizzans and client horses on a daily basis. Anita participated in Lipizzan performances, riding in the Quadrille and exhibiting work-in-hand for the Airs-Above-the-Ground segments of the Lipizzan performances. During her time with Mr. Mikolka she assisted in the training of horses from Levade to Capriole & Courbette.

Auditors: \$30 /Day or \$55 for two days. (KM Members: \$20/Day or \$35 for two days.) Lunch Included.
 Both Days ____ Sat ____ Sun ____

Rider / In-Hand Lesson: \$180 per lesson (KM Members: \$170 per ride) Lunch included.
 (See page 2 for requirements)

Stall fee: \$25 /day. Arrive Friday thru Sun - \$75 total **Stall:** Friday ____ Sat ____ Sun ____

Name of Participate or Auditor: _____ Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Name of Horse: _____ Age: ____ Breed: _____ Riding Level: _____

If minor name of parent or guardian (please print): _____ Phone: _____
 Guardian Signature: _____

Preferred Days to Ride: Both Days: ____ Sat ____ : Sun ____ Preferred Time of Day: Sat Am or PM; Sun AM or PM

Plan to Arrive at Farm with your Horse (Day & time): _____

Total Payment: _____

Make Checks Payable to: WDCTA KM Chapter

Mail to: Melinda DeLuca- KM, S14 W32743 Forest Hills Drive, Delafield, WI 53018

Questions: Call or text 262-313-8487

Rosebury Farm, S63 W30124 Road X, Mukwonago, WI 53149

(Farm entrance is on Road X at the intersection of Hwy 83 and Road X.)

WDCTA – KM Chapter Dressage Clinic
Debbie A. Rodriguez FEI 3* Judge
Sat & Sun March 2-3, 2019

NEW DRESSAGE TESTS EXPLAINED
PRACTICE RIDING TESTS FOR A JUDGE MINUS THE HIGH COST & STRESS
AUDITORS LEARN TO SCRIBE & READ TESTS FOR RIDERS

Debbie is an active dressage rider, trainer, clinician and instructor freelancing in the Williamsburg, Virginia area. Debbie is a USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Medalist. She has coached many students to their medals through the years. Debbie is a USEF "S" Dressage judge as well as a FEI 3* Dressage judge. Debbie stays active in the Eventing discipline as a "R" Eventing judge. As both a rider and a judge she understands competitions from all sides. For 27 years she managed Dressage at Lexington, one of the largest dressage shows in the country, only handing over management to VADA in 2017. She has a strong interest in rider fitness and with her ISSA personal trainer certification she developed the "Success in the Saddle: Core Fitness for Equestrians" program.



Auditors: \$30 /Day or \$55 for two days: KM Members: \$20/Day or \$35 for two days.

Both Days _____ Sat _____ Sun _____

Riders: \$160 per ride. KM Members: \$150 per ride.

(see page 2 for requirements)

Stall fee: \$25 /day. Arrive Friday thru Sun - \$75 total **Stall:** Friday _____ Sat _____ Sun _____

Name of Rider or Auditor: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name of Horse: _____ Age: _____ Breed: _____ Level: _____

If minor name of parent or guardian (please print): _____ Phone: _____

Guardian Signature: _____

Preferred Days to Ride: Both Days: ___ Sat ___ : Sun ___ Preferred Time of Day: Sat Am or PM; Sun AM or PM

Plan to Arrive at Farm with your Horse (Day & time): _____

Total Payment: _____ Make Checks Payable to: WDCTA KM Chapter

Mail to: Melinda DeLuca – KM, S14W32743 Forest Hills Dr, Delafield, WI 53018

Questions: Call or text 262-313-8487

Rosebury Farm, S63 W30124 Road X, Mukwonago, WI 53149

(Farm entrance is on Road X at the intersection of Hwy 83 and Road X.)

Part 2: Florida Snowbird

Towing Two Horses to Florida and Settling In

By Caryn Vesperman

The travel portion of this adventure began Wednesday, Dec. 12. Initially we were going to leave by 6 a.m., but weather reports indicated some mixed precipitation was on its way later that day, so Mark and I opted to get a jump on the drive and get south earlier, so we left at 3 a.m.

Our three-horse trailer was loaded with horse tack, clothes and other personal items, food, beverages, snacks, two horses (Tanqueray MRF and Diamond Dureza, a.k.a. Zeza), grain and good Wisconsin hay piled in the remaining stall—and even stacked in large garbage bags in the living quarters area. I knew how expensive hay was in Florida, so I was determined to squeeze as much as possible anywhere in the trailer, and I mean anywhere!

Since I could oversee the horses on the trip, I did put shipping boots on them. However, instead of winter blankets (they were both clipped before the trip), I put fleece sheets on them to keep them somewhat warm for the first part of the trip. It's always better to have horses on the cooler side with shipping, and since we were headed south, I didn't want them to over-heat, but felt like I needed something on them, leaving frigid Wisconsin.

The first 15-hour leg took us from Wisconsin through Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia. To keep our stops quick and efficient, we made all-in-one stops where we could fuel up, hit the bathroom, and get food to go. We also had brought water from home to offer the horses at these stops. (Tanqueray drank; Zeza didn't.)

Unfortunately we were slowed down when we hit Atlanta rush hour traffic, which caused an extra hour of stop-and-go driving. We were so glad to get to our over-night stay near Macon, Georgia, at about 6 p.m.

EST. It was unseasonably chilly in Georgia, but the horses were bedded up to their knees in fluffy shavings. While we organized the horses in the barn, the owner of the facility cleaned out our trailer. Talk about southern hospitality! Two large horse trailers, filled with polo ponies heading to Wellington, pulled up shortly after us. They took all the barn's remaining stalls and outside paddocks.

Mark and I then crawled into bed in the living quarters to catch some sleep. Unfortunately, I hadn't thought it would be so cold in Georgia, and with the living area packed with plastic bins and bagged hay, we didn't dare turn the heater on, as we were sure the heat vents were blocked. Our option: we went to bed in our winter coats and hats. As I shivered, I told Mark that life with him was certainly an adventure!

We pulled out at 8 a.m., shortly after the polo ponies left. For the remaining eight hours, we tag-teamed the polo ponies to Wellington.

The agriculture inspection stop inside the Florida state line took very little time. All we had to do was hand in our paperwork at the booth, indicating the horses had clean Coggins tests and were free of illness and disease, and they waved us through. I was surprised they didn't even look into our trailer. I guess we looked like innocent greenhorns beyond suspicion! (Have you seen the new Clint Eastwood movie, "The Mule?" Yes, thoughts of what could be hidden in hay bales did cross my mind!)

After that stop, we had only one delay, where we were re-routed off Interstate 75, which had a short section closed due to an accident.



Stuck in traffic and re-routed off I-75 just over the Florida state line, adding an hour to the trip.

What should have been a five-minute alternate route around the accident took an hour with the traffic back-up. We were stopped in place long enough for me to jump out of the truck and open all the trailer windows so the horses could get some air!

We arrived in the Little Ranches equestrian subdivision about 4 p.m. We were so happy to see the gate that let us into Terri's property! She and her husband, John, were waiting for us; I had been updating them through texts on our arrival time.

We unloaded the horses, hay, feed and tack. Then we left while there was still some daylight to find the RV site for the trailer. While I was somewhat familiar with the Wellington/West Palm Beach area from past visits, I was pleasantly surprised to see my guesswork on the distance between the two places was about 10 minutes, with numerous grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, and other stores in-between the two. Two of the recommended feed supply stores also were within 10 minutes.

Settling In

Terri's five-stall barn is cozy and clean. She has a beautiful outdoor arena with huge mirrors along one short end. The footing is a felt/sand mixture, and when I ride in the outdoor or around her property I'm surrounded by Terri's talent with

Continued on next page

Florida Snowbird continued

flowers and shrubbery. Terri is very attentive to the horses and has given me great updates on what they're doing when I'm not there, as well as advice on topics such as where to shop for feed and hay and how to prevent skin problems that many horses succumb to in Florida. Both horses have their own, separate paddocks that they don't share with any other horses. Tanqueray, my six-year-old, settled in beautifully. He seemed to say, "Hey, they feed me here. This place is alright!" Zeza (the supposedly older and wiser one) took a few days to settle in. She didn't eat her grain during the day with much enthusiasm, but cleaned it up at night. In turnout, she paced, while Tanqueray watched her and seemed to be thinking, "What's your problem? There's grass here to eat!" I kept her on GastroGard for a few extra days. After about four days, Zeza settled in and now is quite content in her stall and paddock.

Besides getting the horses settled in, we had a few things to get organized with the trailer. Mark hooked up the septic and electrical for the trailer, while I organized the interior. In short order, I discovered the water heater didn't work. Fortunately we got a referral for a mobile RV repair that came the next day and fixed it in about 10 minutes. We also made an appointment for later in January to repack all the wheel bearings after the long trip.

I soon discovered that while my trailer has enough area to store food for show weekends, it was not very conducive to living in for months. For example, two of my cupboards in the main area are deep and tall, but have no shelves—not very efficient for storage. We made a trip to Home Depot and bought some shelves, which Mark installed for me. (Unbeknownst to me, he had packed a bagful of tools to bring along. It

sure is handy having a handy husband!)

Now I'm settled in with my TV, Keurig, microwave, refrigerator (that is big enough to hold ice cream, an essential!) and



outdoor "tented terrace." What more could a girl want? (Yes, I have a bathroom with toilet and shower. A girl definitely needs that!)

I'm really enjoying my cozy home-away-from-home; however, if Mark ever joins me on this kind of adventure for more than a week or two, I think we'll need more space. It was too small for the two of us—we kind of got on each other's nerves. We're



(Counter-clockwise from top right) Inside my little living quarters is my kitchen with gas stove top, microwave and refrigerator; view through door to my dinette (which converts into a bed for visitors); my sleeping loft in the trailer's gooseneck; and my "tented terrace," complete with flowers I had to buy to remind me that all my outside flowers at home are either dead or in hibernation!

use to a decent-sized house and 35 acres "when we need space away from each other," as Mark diplomatically put it. He's right!

Continued on next page



Florida Snowbird continued



(Clockwise from top left): A lizard resident who lives with others by the pond on the property. (The horses are getting use to things that scoot!); Zeza and Caryn in the front of the property; Tanqueray and Caryn in the outdoor with large mirrors in background; turn-out paddocks with Tanqueray watching in disbelief as Zeza paced the first few days when there's so much grass to eat!

Now that I've been here nearly three weeks, I can say I would not change anything about where I am or where my horses are. I'm so happy to be in a small, private facility, where the care is top-notch and Terri is more than happy to let me have any trainer come in to teach me. I've lined up lessons with Janet Foy and Linda Zang, who both winter here, plus I'm organizing monthly clinics with Cindy Ishoy. And who knows? With all the talent here, other chances to ride with another top-notch dressage professional may come along. Mark said he's sending me back to college with this training adventure, and I intend to take full advantage of any and all opportunities!

Mark flew back home Thursday, Dec. 20. Since then, I've been on my own exploring, shopping, riding and spending time with friends. I went to Janet Foy's annual Christmas party and met a host of people—from Jane Savoie and her husband, Rhett; judges from the U.S. and foreign countries; and people like me—here for the season to train and compete. When I met the judge

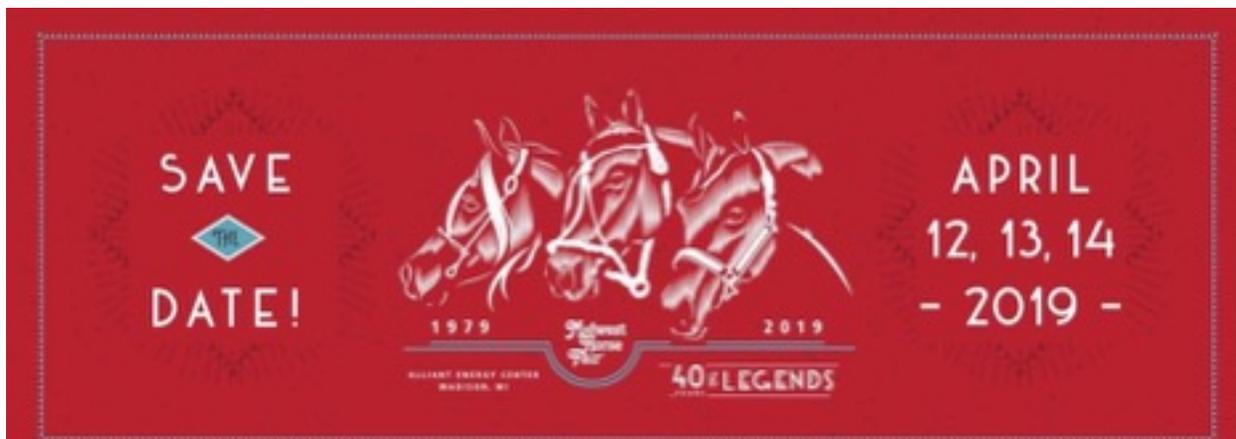
from Luxembourg, I was grateful to have seen the European greeting of three side air-kisses when he greeted the person before me—otherwise, I could have turned the wrong way and smashed his nose! An international faux pas averted! I'm getting cultured...

Honestly, I have never been more relaxed, nor have had so much time to focus on riding. I get up about 8 a.m., have breakfast and then drive to the barn, where I spend the next three to four hours riding and, yes, I even have time to clean my tack after every ride! That's a first (terrible to admit, I know).

I spent the first two weeks here getting my horses fit, forward, supple and relaxed. It was a good way to transition to the serious training that has just started for the three of us.

Stay tuned for next month's update! Keep warm, my Midwest friends!





Who are your legends?

WDCTA Members – here is your chance to be a part of the 2019 Midwest Horse Fair!

All we ask is that you type up a sentence or two and share with us a legendary horse or rider that has made a difference in your horse life. A picture is a plus! We will use these in our Hospitality Stall and throughout our display at the fair in April!

Please email your submissions to central@wdcta.org

WDCTA's 2019 STATE BOARD

President:	Stephanie Severn
Vice President:	Haley Madden
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Committees

Awards Chairperson:	Marie Caldwell
Western Dressage Awards:	Joann Williams
JR/YR Representative:	Mary Barr
Communications Representative (WHC):	OPEN

Member Listings

INSTRUCTORS

Jayne Ayers
Hearthstone Farm Inc.
N14W30212 High Ridge Road
Pewaukee, WI 53072
jayne@dressagehorse.com
(414) 313-4146

Years of study with international experts, including training sessions with USET coaches. 45+ years of teaching. Will teach beginner through Grand Prix. Earned many USDF Horse of the Year awards, long/short list for USET. Students winning national awards and qualifying for USDF Nationals and USET Festival. Emphasize harmony and clear communication through correct dressage principles for competition or enjoyment at home.

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

traceydikkers@gmail.com

Shown through Intermediare I, training Grand Prix. 15+ years of teaching. Will teach beginners to Grand Prix. Ride regularly under top trainers. USDF Bronze and Silver medals on self-trained horses. USDF/USEF "r" judge. Will travel for clinics and lessons.

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

FEI trainer, USDF-certified instructor thru 2nd Level. 2014 national champion with Kingsley. USDF Gold, Silver, Bronze medalist, all USDF bars. Competed two horses at GP. Competed 4th level and small tour at Dressage at Devon. Year-end USDF, USEF, WDCTA awards. 15+ years teaching experience. Students competed through GP, earned rider awards and medals. Will teach all levels. School horses available. Travel for lessons and clinics.

Andrea Schten
Tailwind Farm
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 avail-able. Trailing in for lessons welcome. Available for clinics; 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. 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.

Is
your listing missing
here as an instructor,
breeder, stable or
business owner?
Go to WDCTA.org
to sign up!

Member Listings

STABLES

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.

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.

BUSINESS

Jayne Ayers

Hearthstone Farm Inc.
N14W30212 High Ridge Road
Pewaukee, WI 53072
jayne@dressagehorse.com
(414) 313-4146

Educational programs and seminars on wide variety of topics pertaining to dressage training and judging; rider development; horse management; show preparation; biomechanics; freestyles. FEI 4* and USEF "S" judge, USDF faculty member, long-time instructor and trainer.

Tracey Dikkers

Dundee Training Stable
W4835 Aspen Court
Wild Rose, WI 54984
(608) 220-2628

traceydikkers@gmail.com

USEF/USDF "r" dressage judge, USDF Bronze and Silver medals and ridden to Grand Prix on self-trained horses. Trains own horses through FEI. Available for lessons through FEI and dressage clinics. 25 years experience. Will travel.

Irongate Equine Clinic

1848 Waldorf Blvd.
Madison, WI 53719
(608) 845-6006
info@irongateequine.com

Equine Veterinarian in Madison, Wisconsin. 24-hour emergency care. Regular business hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 p.m.

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.

Caryn Vesperman - USEF '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 shows, eventing shows and schooling shows.

BREEDERS

No breeders out there any more?!

Calendar of Events

WDCTA EVENTS

Feb. 2-3

Anita Adams "Work in Hand" Clinic

Hosted by Kettle Moraine Chapter
Location: Rosebury Farm, Mukwanago, WI
Contact: Melinda DeLuca
Call or text (262) 313-8487

Mar. 2-3

**Debbie A. Rodriguez Clinic - Focus on
New Dressage Tests**

Hosted by Kettle Moraine Chapter
Location: Rosebury Farm, Mukwanago, WI
Contact: Melinda DeLuca
Call or text (262) 313-8487

Mar. 23

WDCTA Annual Meeting & Awards

Banquet

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Location: Banquet Hall of Harley Davidson,
Madison, WI
See detailed registration form in this
newsletter.

SHOWS AND OTHER EVENTS

April 12-14

Midwest Horse Show

Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI

July 20-21

Southwest Chapter Capital Mini Event

Support WDCTA Business Members:



Pat Griffin, DVM, PhD, DACT
Howard R. Ketover, DVM
Lisa M. Nesson, DVM
Lauren Alderman, DVM, CVA

1848 Waldorf Blvd.
Madison, WI 53719
608-845-6006
www.IrongateEquine.com

Dedicated to the health and well being of the horse.





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.