

## The Learning Curve

### How Can I Tell When He's "Got It?"

By Diane Brault

For most of my life with horses, I didn't have access to lessons or even a knowledgeable boarding buddy. Most of my knowledge came from the School of Hard Knocks, a good amount of experimentation, and reading countless horse books from the library.

As a 16 year old, I bought my first horse—a yearling Arabian gelding with little handling and no real training. (Jumped right into the fire, didn't I?) The old saying, "Ignorance is Bliss," fit me to a "T!" But I was blissfully certain he was the most beautiful horse in the whole, wide world!

The seller kindly suggested a book for me. (He must have figured out how little I really knew about horses and their training.) I bought the book, "The Schooling of the Western Horse," by John Richard Young (pub. 1954). In fact, that book is still on my bookshelf, waiting to be read again. It proved to be the perfect book for me at the time—easy to read, fun stories and examples, very clear instructions, etc. It even explained what to do when things go wrong: like what to do when your horse will lunge in only one direction! It was a life saver for me and my little yearling, Riyah.

As you can imagine, training a young Arabian with only a book to guide me left more than a few holes in his training. But, he submitted (what choice did he have?), and slowly we progressed in spite of my shortcomings.

One question that kept cropping up in those early years was, "When is my horse going to 'get it'?" When will he really understand what I want him to do? (How many times do we have to practice picking up the correct lead on the straight-a-way before he can do it reliably?!) Sadly, clear answers to that question eluded me for decades. (One of the consequences of not having an instructor...)

However, I finally figured out the real question is actually, "How can I tell when my horse 'gets it'?" It's a very important question to me, because it guides when I reward my horse, when I repeat the aid, whether I need to think of a new approach, or when to just call it a day. And those things affect how well my horse understands what I'm asking.

Rephrasing the question in that small way opened some new doors for me. It led me to make some connections between my experiences and some concepts in natural horsemanship and books and articles I'd been reading regarding dressage. I realized the difference between some seemingly simple words, can be tremendously important. For example, the difference between tempo and rhythm: Rhythm being the repeated pattern of footfalls (which foot hits the ground first, which foot lands second, etc.), and tempo being the speed of those footfalls. In the case of my wanting to learn how to tell when my horse really understands me, the words—react and respond—became important. I needed to know the difference between them.

**Continued on next page**



**Diane riding Nia, who is out of her mare, Barbie.**

## Got It continued

In training horses, “react” generally carries the connotation of an action performed quickly, probably instinctively, with little thought. “Response” usually refers to an action done calmly, willingly, and is a learned behavior. For example, moving away from a tap on the hindquarters can be viewed as a reaction, since the action is instinctive and no learning is required. In comparison, moving off your leg can be considered a response, since it’s not instinctive and required your horse to actively learn what you wanted him to do when you applied pressure with your leg.

That began to shed some light on learning how to tell when my horse “gets it.” At least then I understood when he’s not “getting it”—when he’s acting on instinct, which may be accompanied by white around his eyes and some tight muscles. When he’s responding, he’s showing me he understands. But, I still needed more light shed on the “showing me he understands” part...

Recently I read a book written by dressage trainer, Michael Schaffer, “Riding in the Moment.” It has added more information in my quest to answer the question of, “How can I tell if my horse ‘gets it.’” His explanations of mechanical, cognitive and connected aids seem to dovetail into the concepts of reaction versus response.

Mechanical aids are those that kind of force the horse to do what you ask. Examples include tapping the horse on the rear to cause forward movement, using an exaggerated opening rein to help a youngster turn, or forcing a horse into a frame



**Diane Brault on Nia, while Michelle Knapp holds Diane’s other horse, Sheeta, during a lesson.**

by hauling on his mouth while kicking him to go forward (poor horse). Mechanical aids sometimes have a limited place in initial training, and can be thought of as actions that cause the horse to react, even if he’s not yet sure of what the rider wants.

Schaffer’s cognitive aids are the opposite. The goal of cognitive riding is to help the horse understand what you want without using force. A cognitive trainer breaks down a concept into tiny pieces, and immediately rewards the smallest progress. The cognitive trainer listens. The goal is to cause the horse to learn by engaging his brain instead of simply forcing his body. In this way, the horse responds to the learned aids, instead of merely reacting. Now, answers to my questions were beginning to emerge from the foggy mists in my brain.

Natural horsemanship merges nicely with these ideas too. The goals include helping your horse become more trusting in you, more confident in himself, and become a better learner. As a retired elementary school teacher, the idea of a horse

being able to learn how to be a learner intrigues me! The idea is that if you are a good teacher, your horse will eventually catch on to your method, recognize when you are applying that method again, anticipate the process, and learn more quickly! Wow! Horses can actually learn how to learn? How exciting!! All I have to do is be sure I’m doing the things a good teacher does! (More on that some other time.)

Back to my question, “How can I tell when he’s ‘got it?’” I think the actions below show my horse doesn’t “have it” yet, but is in the beginning stages of learning:

1. When he listens to my cue, he may become nervous and tense.
2. As I continue applying my cue, he may get fidgety and try out a variety of maneuvers to find out which will make me stop my cueing. He is experimenting, searching for the right answer.
3. Alternatively, he may just stop, stiffen up, raise his head, and freeze, because he doesn’t understand what’s going on. (Deer in the headlights?)

**Continued on next page**

## Got It continued

4. As you can imagine, when he finally stumbles onto the movement that earns him a reward, he's quite relieved! But that doesn't mean he's got it solidly in his brain yet!

5. For awhile yet, he will still be unsure of himself and may continue to offer incorrect movements to my new aid. But these will decrease in time as I continue to be consistent with how I apply my aid and the timing of my reward.

6. He may anticipate and respond before I finish asking. I accept this in the beginning, and refrain from telling him, "No, I didn't ask for that, yet." I'll wait for a minute and then ask again.

7. In his uncertainty, he may shorten and/or quicken his strides while he responds.

I think these factors indicate my horse really does understand what I'm asking him to do:

1. He remains calm as he listens to my aids.
2. His response is immediate but not rushed.
3. He willingly responds to a much lighter aid.
4. He responds correctly 90% of the time.
5. His lack of tension or worry while responding correctly to my aid indicates he's confident he knows just what I want.
6. His response becomes so automatic he can even respond correctly in highly emotional situations!

I have a great example of the last one. One of my current mares, Barbie, valiantly performed my requests even in the face of a herd of monstrous cows!

When I first began teaching Barbie about moving away from pressure on one side of her belly, she had a really tough time with it. She got tense and nervous, and danced around all over the place, not understanding that I wanted her to step sideways with a hind leg. After she could respond calmly and

reliably to my finger pressure, we moved to working on it while under saddle. She seemed to regress back to her earlier stage of nervousness and not being able to stand still. Backing up seemed to be her most common choice of action. Even when she was catching on to moving a hind foot to the side, she was still worrying about whether that was correct or not. Worry was her middle name! I often wondered if she was ever going to get it! But she finally did. Next we worked on moving her hind legs sideways in leg yield. That took a while, too, but it didn't seem as long as the earlier movements. (Aside: Since then, she learns new things much faster! I guess I've become a better teacher and she has learned how to learn! Yippee!)

But, back to my story. Over the years, Barbie and I practiced a variety of lateral work during almost every ride—with the exception of trail rides, of course.

One day Barbie and I were nearly finished with a trail ride at Donald Park, when Barbie noticed a herd of cows at the bottom of a hill. Naturally, our trail required us to go down that hill and along that pasture before the trail turned away from the monstrous beasts. She must have thought the milk cows were saber-toothed tigers from the Ice Age and just waiting to gobble her up! She became so "animated," to put it mildly, that I finally jumped off, fearing for my safety. Even on the ground I didn't feel safe being near my terrified, little mare. We made it past the saber-toothed tigers and headed up the valley away from them. After a half mile of hand walking, a really big hill stood in front of us. I was getting tired and frustrated by now, and I really, really didn't want to walk up that hill on my own two feet! Barbie still hadn't calmed down much, but I hopped on anyway, and we jiggled our way up the hill. From the top of the hill, all I could see of those bovine beasts were little black splotches way down in the valley, but that

didn't make Barbie feel any better. She was still convinced they were going to come after her and kill her. This time I thought I'd be smarter (Ha!) and do something to engage her brain, so she'd stop worrying about the cows. (Fat chance, as it turned out!) I'd use lateral work and changes in direction to capture her attention. I asked her to leg yield a few steps to the right, then a few steps to the left, and on and on. We leg yielded back and forth down the trail for a half mile, and it didn't calm her down one single bit!! When the trail headed downhill, I decided I'd had enough, and I got down again and walked her the rest of the way back to the trailer. I was definitely not successful at engaging her brain that day.

That day I did learn one good thing, though: Barbie has earned my lateral leg aids! She can do lateral movements so automatically that she doesn't even need to think about it when she's doing it! She can do it under extreme emotional circumstances! She definitely "gets it!"

I think I now can tell if my horse "gets it." The fine line between "reacting" and "responding" is pretty clear now. I understand my horse's antsy, nervous and inconsistent reactions to a new request can simply be part of her learning curve. I can recognize her calm demeanor and relaxed, prompt and reliable response to my aids shows me she is confident she knows what I'm asking her to do. I understand my calm, consistent, cognitive approach to introducing her to new movements has helped my horse learn how to be a learner. I think I "get it," now too!

## Getting Involved



### 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](http://wdcta.org)) or mailed with a check made out to WDCTA and mailed to the editor.

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I've been involved with WDCTA for longer than I've been married! I've enjoyed contributing to the education of our horse community and, just as important, I've learned so much about dressage, eventing, and organizing programs and events.

As with all organizations, in order to replace individuals who have moved away or dropped out for personal reasons and keep the organization vibrant, fresh and have a pipeline for new ideas, we need more people to get involved.

Through my years with WDCTA, I've met some great people—some who have become very good friends for life. I know I could call on them in a moment's notice and get help. I've also had the opportunity to meet some amazing local, national and international equestrian experts in WDCTA's effort to bring some of the best to our area.

We're all so busy in our lives, but if you want to give back, get involved and/or meet new people, please volunteer in some capacity for your local chapter or state event. Start small, if you're unsure of what you want to do or if you're not sure you know how to do something. You'll learn quickly and you will definitely be appreciated!

Stay warm!

*Caryn*

### **WDCTA Early Bird Membership Winner**

Ingrid Krause was the winner in the drawing of individuals who joined or renewed their membership early for 2019. Ingrid won a WDCTA saddle pad. Who can't use another saddle pad? Congratulations, Ingrid!

# 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, 125 Fawn Court, Oregon WI 53575

# Lindinhof

Equine Sports Zentrum



*We would like  
to thank all  
our wonderful clients...*

*Mary & "Winston":*  
Congratulations to them on competing Prix St. Georges level. What an accomplishment. One score away from their USDF Silver medal!



Scott Cheney photo

*Tiffany & "Jildou":*  
Congratulations to them for debuting at PSG level and earning their USDF Silver medal! They also debuted awesome freestyles at 3rd and 4th levels. Congratulations on earning Friesian Elite status! Cannot wait to see what 2019 brings for this pair!



Frankie Photo Design photo

*Jenny & "Larry":*  
World champion at first level Adult Amateur at the Morgan Nationals and world championships. They also debuted 3rd level. One more score and they have their Bronze!!! So exciting!!!



Howard Schatzberg photo

*Lynnea & "Gold":*  
Congratulations on successfully competing at FEI levels. Huge accomplishment! So proud of this pair. Looking forward to seeing what the future holds.



Scott Cheney photo

*Sara & "Gold":*  
Sara was able to have her first season out in the show arena!! Rocked Training and First levels. Thank you, Gold! Onward to 3rd level for 2019!



Ryan Rasmussen photo

...for their loyalty and commitment!

It has been another wonderful year for the show team and individual progress!

*Lisa & "Pami":*  
Congratulations to them for earning their USDF Bronze Bar and successfully competing at I-1 freestyle! So excited to see them moving on to Grand Prix!



John Bonys photo

*Jenny & "Angel":*  
National champion at first level musical freestyle at Morgan Grand Nationals and world championship. USDF Champion Morgan all breed award first level freestyle amateur and open. Really looking forward to seeing where 2019 takes them!



Howard Schatzberg photo

*"Elbricht":* owned by Rick & Sue Neipert. Congratulations on competing at PSG level and earning a 67%!! This pair also captured Friesian Elite status! They placed 7th in North America for the IBOP test with a 74.5%, which earned Elbricht his Ster status! Onward to Grand Prix!



Scott C. Ayers photo

*"AJ":*  
Competed successfully at the small tour on the West Coast Dressage Festival - CDI series in Del Mar, CA. Megan and AJ also competed at the US Finals in KY.



Susan Stickle photo

*Thank you ...*

... to Jake Anderson, Half Circle A Ranch; Drs. Batker, Hirsbrunner & Anderson, Country View Vets; Jeff Reeck with Sport Horse Massage; and Stacy Hockel with Equine Inspired, saddle fitter; Dr. Mark McCann, Double M Chiropractic; and Holistic Veterinary Options, Michelle Krusing. You are all a big part of making the Lindinhof Team successful. Thank you to Jayne Ayers for her guidance and coaching. Thank you to Melanie Michalak, MSM Freestyles, for her talents in creating all my freestyles. Thank you to Jeremy Steinberg and Jennifer Kotylo for their clinic series throughout the year. Thank you to Kathleen Raine for all of your advice and guidance during the West Coast Festival Series and clinics! And thank you to my sponsors: IRH Helmets, Wahl Clippers, Oregon Farm Center, Purina, Crown Jewel Designs, Country View Veterinary Services, Custom Saddlery, and KPF Equine!

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## Part 3: Florida Snowbird Training, Shows and Special Events Underway

By Caryn Vesperman

In January, my lessons began! What a treat it is to focus only on riding and not a job, projects, getting to appointments, cleaning the house or barn, feeding and turn-out, and all the other adult things we need to do in life.

After years of trying to balance work, riding and a personal life, I'm enjoying being a "princess." I don't know how else to describe my time here. I only have to make sure Terri, who owns the facility I'm boarding at, has enough shavings, grain, hay and supplements for my two horses. For those who have their own facilities where you control everything, it can be difficult to depend upon someone else for all your horse's care. (For those of you who board, you are used to that!) I can honestly say, even after more than 20 years of having my horses at home, I am not worrying a bit. While I was warned about the cost of hay in Florida, after paying around \$3.50 a bale for good Wisconsin hay for years, \$15 a bale here makes me crazy—and it's not like my two horses are light eaters. The two of them go through about one-and-a-half bales a day! The cost of shavings is about the same, although because my horses aren't turned out for eight hours like at home, I'm going through more. Oh, well, it's worth it!

### Immersed in Horses From Sun Up to Sun Down

The greatest part of all: I have the time to ride nearly every day. The only days I don't ride is when I purposely give my horses a day off or I have some activity going on. I'm at the barn from approximately 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. I either ride on my own or take weekly lessons from Janet Foy and Linda Zang. I'm also organizing clinics once a month with Cindy Ishoy. It's great to have so much guidance, plus

has some days when I'm on my own to process and practice what I learn in my lessons. (A summary of some of the things I'm learning is on the following page.)

Outside of being at the barn, I've scribed at a CDI-W (the rating of a show our top riders need to compete to qualify for the U.S. team) at the Global show grounds, which is a great way to learn and keep developing my judge's eye and vocabulary. I also attended the first CDI-W in early January. I watched Laura Graves compete Verdades, scoring 80.065% in the Grand Prix and 83.22% in the freestyle, with Shelly Francis and Danilo coming in second in the Grand Prix with a 72.478% and a 79.28% in the freestyle. (See video on [Global](#)



**Laura Graves, competing at the Global CDI-W on Verdades, won both the Grand Prix and the Grand Prix freestyle.**

[Dressage Festival webpage](#) from second CDI.)

Another January event some friends and I attended was the Helgstrand Open House, an event hosted by a European horse importer. The horses were quite expensive—I don't think anything shown was less than six figures! Way out of my price range... but oh, could I drool over the elasticity, scope and beauty of these horses, plus the riding abilities of those presenting the horses.



**Pictured is one of the horses in the Helgstrand showcase. The barn/apartment facility is in the background. Not only were the horses incredible, but the facility grounds were impressive.**

In addition, I participated in the USDF judge's forum. Details on what I learned over those three days will appear in the *eQuester* next month. I also attended the two-day Trainer's Conference. This featured riders working with four of our top past riders, now current trainers: Charlotte Bredahl, Debbie McDonald, Christine Traurig, and George Williams. Again, I'll summarize what I observed in a future issue.

**Continued on next page**

## Florida Snowbird continued

### Non-Horse Activities Aboard

I've also had some time to spend exploring the area. I can take a wrong turn now and find my way home without GPS, so I'm getting more comfortable with finding my way around. (I know where the consignment shop is for horse tack and rider clothes. I stop in weekly to see what else has been donated. Some of it is used, and some is brand new. Okay, so that wasn't

non-horsey, but it IS next to some good restaurants.)

I've been to the beach a few times, found a branch of the fitness club I belong to, eaten at some great restaurants, am cooking way more than I ever have in my life, and I visit the laundromat every two weeks for my personal and horse clothes. Small washers are \$3.50 a load for my clothes and the bigger ones for horse items are \$6.75! The dryers

are 25 cents for four minutes. Four minutes times multiple times... I will hug my washer and dryer (after my husband) when I get home!

January has been a very busy month, and February promises to be just as interesting.

No matter where you are spending the winter, enjoy your horses. It's such a privilege and joy to be able to have them, isn't it?

## Lightbulb Moments

By Caryn Vesperman

After two weeks of no lessons (which was fine, as it gave time for the horses to acclimate and get back into work mode), it was great having eyes on the ground, thanks to monthly clinics with Cindy Ishoy and weekly lessons with Janet Foy and Linda Zang.

All are focusing on my position, which includes shorter reins and keeping my hands more out in front of me instead of too close to my body. I also have a better idea of where my seat bones need to be. (And, they're sore, so I definitely found and am using them!) The proper position also means sitting straighter, lifting my chest up and using more of my core to influence the horse. Rider position really is key in how riders affect their horses—for better or worse! Improving my awareness of and improving my position is definitely making a difference in my horses' way of going. As they get stronger and straighter, their ability to carry themselves in an uphill carriage is improving.

Another critical area is using the aids independently and making sure the horse understands the purpose of each aid alone. For example, flexion or bending shouldn't imply to the horse a specific direction of travel or a specific movement. Try asking your horse for a right-lead canter with the horse bent left. If you can't do it easily, your aids are not independent! My understanding of and using the proper aids for the situation is, for example, helping improve my flying changes because I am riding the horse straighter and controlling all my aids more independently.

Another lightbulb moment is when I figured out the more I collect the horse, the lighter my seat needs to be. Over the years, I've heard about not sitting heavy, but now I'm really feeling this concept in action. By keeping a lighter seat allows the horse's back to round even more under the saddle (and lift my seat up) versus me sitting harder, which pushes the horse's back down and the hindquarters out. The canter pirouettes I'm now



**Riding my two horses, Tanqueray MRF (left) and Diamond Dureza (right). They are handling iguanas passing through the ring well; however, right now a vacated chair near the arena is terrifying to Tanqueray. I don't know what he thinks—the chair ate the person who once sat there?!**

getting feel like I could just keep going around and around...uphill, light, controlled, supple—and my horse is not tense, stressed or confused about the request.

When I get it right, I can't believe how happy, supple and light my horses are and how easy the movements are to execute. Now, this doesn't happen every second I'm on my horse. I wish that could be true! But, I'm human and my horses have minds of their own. There are moments my horse falls on its inside shoulder or the forehand; I get my weight and position too much to the inside so I'm not centered any more; or my inside seat bone is too heavy. (In other words, it's wrong when my inside seat bone is pointed down versus light and higher than my outside seat bone. When it's down, it keeps my horse's inside shoulder from moving freely and impedes forwardness.) However, the good thing is I'm recognizing these issues quicker, and my reaction in a less-than-perfect moment (getting on the forehand, a spook, too much speed) is *not* to lean forward with my upper body and pull on the reins (especially that darn inside rein!).

More of my insights on improving my riding next month!

# Kathleen Raine Dressage Clinic

February 23 - 24, 2019

At Lindinhof Equine Sports Zentrum,  
4246 Schneider Drive, Oregon, WI 53575



Kathleen Raine has been a central figure in competitive dressage in the U.S. for nearly two decades. She has represented the U.S. in international competitions many times, competed in the sport's most prestigious events, and won numerous championships at all levels. In 1994, Kathleen and her Dutch gelding Avontuur were members of the Bronze medal winning U.S. Dressage Team at the FEI World Equestrian Games. Also in 1994, she and Avontuur were the U.S. League Final Champions and attended the FEI World Cup Finals, placing fifth. In both 1996 and 2000, Kathleen was an alternate for the U.S. Dressage Team at the Olympic Games. In 2006, Kathleen and Breanna won the six-year-old division at the Markel/USEF Young Horse Dressage Western Selection Trials for the FEI World Breeding Championship. In January 2011, Breanna made her first Grand Prix appearances at Dressage Getaway, winning their first two classes. They went on to qualify and compete at Gladstone where they placed fourth. After Gladstone, USEF awarded Kathleen a grant to train and compete in Europe for six weeks. In 2012, Kathleen and Breanna have consistently been in the top three in the California CDI Grand Prix and Grand Prix Specials. In 2013 Kathleen and Breanna led the U.S. Team to a Second Place finish at the Dressage at Hickstead CDI03\* FEI Nations Cup. Kathleen also is in demand for clinics all over the U.S.. Her students win numerous championships at every level, and some have gone on to start their own successful training businesses. When in Europe, Kathleen works with Jo Hinnemann and at home, with Christine Traurig. Kathleen and her husband, David Wightman, own and operate Adventure Farms training facility in Murrieta, CA.

**Rider/Auditor Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Horse's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Breed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sex:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Level Training:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Level Showing:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Rider Fees:

- \$300 for 1 day ride       \$600 for 2 rides       \$25 per day or night for stabling

*Please include copy of current negative Coggins and vaccine sheet with your registration.*

**Auditor Fees:** (Please bring your own lunch and comfortable chair)

- Saturday (\$35/person)       Sunday (\$35/person)

Rider Fees: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stabling: \_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor Fees: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **Lindinhof, LLC**

Mail: Lindinhof, LLC, 4246 Schneider Drive, Oregon, WI 53575

Questions: 608.445.8531 or [lindinhofllc@gmail.com](mailto:lindinhofllc@gmail.com)

*Please include copy of current negative Coggins and vaccine sheet with your registration.*



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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.)



# 2019 Jeremy Steinberg Dressage Clinics:

March 2 – 3 ° August 10 – 11 ° November 2 – 3

At Lindinhof Equine Sports Zentrum,  
4246 Schneider Drive, Oregon, WI 53575

Jeremy enjoys teaching, emphasizing an environment conducive to learning classical dressage and good horsemanship. His goal is for students to understand the basic philosophies of dressage, enabling them to work successfully with their own horses. In 2010 Jeremy was appointed the USEF Dressage Youth Coach. Jeremy has become a much sought-after clinician in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. For Jeremy's detailed biography, please visit [SteinbergDressage.com](http://SteinbergDressage.com)

Rider/Auditor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Level Training: \_\_\_\_\_ Level Showing: \_\_\_\_\_

### Rider Fees:

- \$300 for 1 day ride       \$600 for 2 day ride      Dates: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$25 per day or night for stabling, per horse

*Please include copy of current negative Coggins and vaccine sheet with your registration.*

### Auditor Fees: (Please bring your own lunch and comfortable chair)

- Saturday (\$35/person)       Sunday (\$35/person)       Both days (\$70/person)

Rider Fees: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stabling: \_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor Fees: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **Lindinhof, LLC**

Mail: Lindinhof, LLC, 4246 Schneider Drive, Oregon, WI 53575

Questions: 608.445.8531 or [lindinhofllc@gmail.com](mailto:lindinhofllc@gmail.com)

*Please include copy of current negative Coggins and vaccine sheet with your registration.*



www.lindinhof.com  
608.445.8531

# Member Listings

## INSTRUCTORS

**Jayne Ayers**  
Hearthstone Farm Inc.  
N14W30212 High Ridge Road  
Pewaukee, WI 53072  
[jayne@dressagehorse.com](mailto: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.

**Marguerite Browne**  
Marguerite Browne Dressage  
213 Kenwood Drive  
Thiensville, WI 53092  
(414) 208-0021

[brownbosco@yahoo.com](mailto:brownbosco@yahoo.com)  
Dressage instruction provided at all levels on rider's own horse. Over 3 decades of classical dressage training and riding. Will travel.

**Tracey Dikkers**  
Dundee Training Stable  
W4835 Aspen Court  
Wild Rose, WI 54984  
(608) 220-2628  
[traceydikkers@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:aschten@hotmail.com)  
[www.andreaschten.com](http://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.

**Kate Van Sicklen**  
110 Merrill Crest Drive  
Madison, WI 53705  
[katherinevansicklen@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Nicole Trapp**  
Barryridge Equestrian Center  
1713 Carrie Lane  
West Bend, WI 53095  
[trappnl@hotmail.com](mailto:trappnl@hotmail.com)  
(920) 960-6930

Shown through PSG on self-trained horses. USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist, completed USDF L program w/ distinction, audited instructor program. 25 years of teaching experience, Many year-end awards through USDF, USEF, and WDCTA, placed at 2015 U.S. Dressage Finals. Participated in 2017 National Young Horse Championships. Will teach up to 4th level, school horses available, will travel for clinics.

**Joann Williams**  
W3580 Scotch Bush Road  
Elkhorn, WI 53121  
[jwcambridge18@yahoo.com](mailto:jwcambridge18@yahoo.com)  
(414) 378-2231

Classical dressage for every horse and rider, beginner to Grand Prix. Lessons, training in traditional, Western and gaited dressage. Earned all 6 USDF Medals, multiple USDF HOY, All-Breed regional and WDCTA awards on many horses. Western Dressage World Champion Levels 2&3 in 2016 and 2017. Many students are Silver and Bronze medalists. 30+ years experience bringing horses and riders up the levels. Studied with many FEI and National Level "S" judges and riders. Based in Elkhorn. Will travel.

# Member Listings

## STABLES

**Lindinhof Equine Sports Zentrum**  
**Megan McIsaac**  
**4246 Schneider Drive**  
**Oregon, WI 53575**  
[lindinhofllc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:aschten@hotmail.com)  
[www.andreaschten.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lindinhofllc@gmail.com)  
**(608) 445-8531**  
[www.lindinhof.com](http://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](mailto: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?

Missing  
here as an  
instructor,  
breeder, stable  
or  
business owner?

Go to  
[WDCTA.org](http://WDCTA.org)  
to sign up!

# Calendar of Events

## WDCTA EVENTS

**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.

**May 26**

**Central Chptr Beginner Eventing Clinic**

Instructor: Nicki Butler  
[central@wdcta.org](mailto:central@wdcta.org)

**June 23**

**Central Chptr Beginner Eventing Clinic**

Instructor: Nicki Butler  
[central@wdcta.org](mailto:central@wdcta.org)

**July 13**

**Central Chptr Beginner Eventing Clinic**

Instructor: Nicki Butler  
[central@wdcta.org](mailto:central@wdcta.org)

**July 27**

**Central Chapter Schooling Show**

Instructor: Nicki Butler  
[central@wdcta.org](mailto:central@wdcta.org)

**August 18**

**Central Chptr Beginner Eventing Clinic**

Instructor: Nicki Butler  
[central@wdcta.org](mailto:central@wdcta.org)

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

### 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.