



The Contact

FALL 2019



INSIDE:

- 2 2019 Awards Banquet
- 4 Felice Rose Memorial
- 8 Barn Highlight: Legacy Dressage
- 9 Sponsor Spotlight: Trilogy
- 10 Scholarship Reports
- 14 Region 4 News, Classifieds & Western Dressage Corner
- 15 Local Trainer List
- 17 Calendar of Events

Looking ahead with 2020 Vision

As we look forward to 2020, it is clear that the year will be full of updates for NDA and our members. With new faces on our board to foster fresh ideas for our regio, and new schooling shows to hone our riding skills, 2020 should be an incredible year for NDA.

2018 and 2019 introduced new facilities to our region from our members advancing their business, opening new opportunities for clinics, educational events and schooling shows for us to enjoy in 2020.

This year, NDA will see a renewed focus on educational events for our members. We will also gather once again for the International at the CHI Health Center in the beginning of April.

Stay tuned for your chance at clinic schoarships, and new avenues for improving your skills in the saddle.

Happy riding,
Michaela Schieffer
NDA Editor

2019 Annual Awards Banquet

From the popular french toast casserole to the title Eggs, Halt, Salute, the breakfast theme was in full swing for the 2019 Year-End Awards Banquet. Held once again at the stunning and spacious Ashland Country Club for location convenience for all of our Region 4 members, the Banquet was filled with connecting with fellow riders and sharing stories of our beloved equine partners from the past year.



Highlights of the banquet itself included an absolutely irresistible array of silent auction items such as doggie-comfort packages, handmade custom wood serving tray with horseshoe handles, and sensational matching saddle pad, ear bonnet and polo wrap sets. The bidding was seriously fierce this year over these amazing items!

The annual speech ended with a touching tribute to the strong horsewomen we lost in 2019, Rikki Bruckman, Sally Queal, and Felice Rose, by Vice President Margo Hamilton. If you were unable to join us, please know that you were missed!

Michaela Schieffer
NDA Editor

Sharing God's gift of horses with anyone
regardless of AGE, INCOME or ABILITY

www.stillwaterseq.org



Lessons - Boarding
Summer Camps
Therapeutic Riding Program

18221 S. 68th St, Hickma, NE



In summary of the event news, 2019 was a stellar year for NDA. Our region continues to have a strong membership, and continues to be recognized for our promotion of the sport. The FEI World Cup is returning to Omaha in 2023 after a successful introduction in 2017, which is a testament to our welcoming membership and the exceptional facilities at the CHI Health Center, formerly the CenturyLink Center. This year saw the addition of 2 new schooling shows to the region, and earning the award for the Best Website in the USDF GMO awards.

We are also hard at work planning the welcome party for the USDF Convention coming to Omaha in 2020, which we have the pleasure to host. More details on that party to follow! We are also refocusing our efforts on education events for the coming year to bring learning opportunities to our members in an effort to help us all grow as riders.

Board members who left their positions on the board included Kathy Hanford and Miya Higgins. We truly appreciate their time and dedication to NDA during their time in service, leaving the organization in a better place than before their terms.

We are happy to announce our new board positions! Our new board consists of: Melissa Ward as President, Margo Hamilton as Vice President, Jane Fucinaro as Secretary, Lana Erickson as Treasurer, Mia Newman as our Junior Rep, in addition to Heidi Helmer, Gracia Huenefeld, Michaela Schieffer, and Angie McClelland.

Our Volunteer of the Year award was presented to the Fucinaro family, and our President's award was presented to Margo Hamilton.

You Spent All Year Training for This
You Spent All Year Working To Pay His Vet Bills
You Spent All Night Organizing Your Tack Box
You Spent Your Extra Money On More Lessons
You Spent All Your Days Off Getting Him Ready



And, when you walk into his stall, you find the creature from the movie, *Aliens*...

Don't worry. We'll take care of you.

Check our current wait time
online at UCCLincoln.com
(402) 488-4321

 URGENT CARE CLINIC
OF LINCOLN, P.C.
72ND & PIONEERS



Rememberance: Felice Rose

by Margo Hamilton

When Felice Rose was the same age I am now the United States Dressage Federation was yet to be formed. It would take six more years for our governing organization to take shape. It's hard to imagine the landscape of dressage in the United States in those times. In a time before dressage was governed by any organization there existed a passionate few across the nation who boldly stepped forward with a vision: to cultivate dressage culture from coast to coast.

Felice Gibbs Rose was such a person in Nebraska.

She was born in South Dakota in 1930. An animal lover from the moment she hit the ground. Raised during the depression her family moved around quite a bit throughout the plains states following the work. By her family's account she was always one to adopt a stray dog in every town where they put down stakes. Her dressage career didn't begin until much later in life in her 40s after she was married and her children

were well into school. Lowell Boomer, the father of Dressage in the United States was her first dressage teacher.

In 1983 Felice opened Yankee Hill Equestrian Center, just west of Lincoln, Nebraska. Hers was a well-thought-out 25 stall barn with a more than full-sized indoor arena. Yankee Hill also featured a large pasture and cross-country obstacles so that her son, Peter Rose, who shared his mother's love for animals could pursue his equestrian passions as well. From the very beginning of her tenure at Yankee Hill Felice used her facility to educate about and promote the sport of dressage in Nebraska.

Felice sought to grow her riding skills and maintained very clear goals. She rode with many Masters of the day. She was a devoted follower of Willi Schultheis and did take opportunities to ride with him in clinics. Eventually she found her mentor in Bodo Hangen. He came to Nebraska for clinics regularly up until his passing in 1993. Bodo was a trainer and instructor at Temple Farms in Illinois. Prior to coming to the United States he rode at the Spanish Riding School of Vienna. A more suitable, classically trained instructor would be a challenge to find. As a child I recall these clinics very fondly. I enjoyed watching Felice's lessons. She was a very focused rider, always listening, always trying to get the most out of her horses.

As young children Felice encouraged us to ride with Bodo. We were very lucky to receive such a wonderful classical education in dressage early in our riding careers. I'm not certain how many instructors today would allow 9 year old children to ride with a clinician of his caliber. Felice was invested in the future of our sport, and so we kids were instructed and taught and were given the same instruction and had the same standards as the adults.

Felice was most certainly a "tough love" kind of teacher. She did love you as much as she was hard on you. As an instructor she would work with anyone who had the drive to become better and demonstrated a commitment to the sport. She would work with any kind of horse, provided it was suitable for dressage. Throughout her career she never wavered from that philosophy.

She not only taught lessons, hosted clinics, put on horse shows, but also bred Swedish Warmblood horses and Jack Russel Terriers. She maintained an extensive library dressage training books and was always loaning them out to people or making recommendations. She cited Klimke, Kirkland and DeKunffy. The dressage training scale adorned the walls of her arena.

The lounge in Yankee Hill was appointed with copies of *The Chronicle of the Horse* as well as USDF Connection. She took every chance she had to get people interested in dressage, even parents waiting for kids to be done with their horses could learn something while they waited. Felice was a major consumer of all things dressage. If she could read it, watch it, learn it, milk it for information she would.

Her passion for the beauty of the sport and the system of training was boundless and she shared this passion and knowledge with anyone who would listen. In 1990 she traveled to Stockholm, Sweden for the first ever World Equestrian Games. She came home imbued with a passion for Musical Freestyles and Quadrilles. I remember, because shortly after her return our clan of barn rats were immediately put into weekly quadrille practice under the guise of "group lessons." I am forever grateful that it was Quadrille, and not vaulting that caught her eye.

Felice's commitment to growing the sport of dressage extended to her dedication to become a judge. She graduated the USDF "L" Judges program in the summer of 1993 with distinction and was Nebraska's First "L" Judge. She used those judging skills to help her students better understand the goals and expectations of each test. She was a valuable asset to Nebraska's Schooling Shows as a both a judge and a clinician for her Ride-A-Test Clinics. Many of us remember Felice giving comments from the judge's stand after our final salute at X. She pushed me as an adult to pursue my "L" card, and I think now I should probably follow her example and finish that process.

Long before she sat behind the Judge's table though, she was a strong competitor. Taking her mostly home bred, mostly self-trained, mostly mares down the centerline year after year. She earned countless USDF Year End Awards, her USDF Bronze medal and competed up to Prix St. Georges. The names of her horses appear over and over again on NDA's Horse of the Year Trophy. As a vibrant 69 year old woman, she trotted down the centerline for the last time in 1999 aboard her mare Katerina.

Felice was active in NDA, in 2003 she served as it's president. Throughout NDA's history she was very involved with the organization, supporting it's shows, and clinics. Encouraging all of her students to follow suit. She was an early believer in Western Dressage.



Drs. Mike Black, Kim Conover, Amy Cook and Michael Thomassen
Veterinarian | Nebraska Equine Veterinary Clinic | 402.533.1151

10261 County Road P38A
Omaha, NE 68142

For years before Western Dressage was a part of our organization Felice advocated for the new sport. Even as people would chuckle at the notion, Felice was deadly serious about Western Dressage. Her belief in every horse, and every rider being who are willing and capable grew to include saddle horns head stalls and western riders with the urge to try out dressage.

Felice was a tough lady, there is no arguing that. She rigorously believed what she believed in and was never one to back down. She was physically tough, after breaking her collar bone in a riding accident she came down to the barn in her breeches and arm in a sling thinking she may ride. Although it was ultimately her back that told her she could ride no more. She was emotionally tough. Following the tragic death of her son in 1990 she bravely carried on in the barn they loved and operated together. She was a role model of sorts, for women facing the challenges of life on their own terms as they wholly pursue their goals.

As I sit here now typing this I wonder: could Felice possibly imagine the impact her passion for dressage would have? Could she imagine how much the sport would grow? That USDF would not only succeed but thrive. Did she imagine the number of shows, championships and incredible opportunities for Dressage riders it would bring? That in her lifetime the US would be breeding incredible warmbloods and our team riders would be giving the Germans a run for their money on the global stage? That all of the worlds best Dressage riders would compete in OMAHA NEBRASKA at the World Cup? That she would coach so many talented youth riders all the way to the podium at Young Riders? An Olympian?

Her unadulterated devotion to the sport of dressage is an example of how far one person's commitment to something can make a difference in the world. She may not have written the by-laws, but she supported both USDF and NDA from the beginning. Not only that but she brought so many of us into the fold. Her passion created generations of passion for Dressage.

May we keep that light burning.

It's a major challenge to try and sum up someone's life in a very short space. People are difficult to "summarize." It's difficult to succinctly and elegantly describe just how many different things Felice

achieved in her career without it becoming an endlessly boring list.

It's impossible for me to remember all the things she taught me when trained under her, and in my lifetime of being around her receiving occasionally unsolicited advice. When I heard she passed my heart was heavy, I sat down to sob. My stomach felt sick realizing what big shoes she has left us all to fill. Though most of you reading this may have met Felice. Many will have learned from Felice, you may not have realized all that she achieved. You may not have realized how grand her scope, and how numerous her achievements. It is an honor to recount them for you all.

One of the last times Felice was at my barn I was having a moment with a horse. He was being uncooperative. Naughty even. I paused for a moment and let out a sigh of deep frustration. Probably the same sigh I have been letting out since I was 8 years old. Felice walked up to me and grabbed both of my hands and said "Relax, you know what to do." She was right. I worked through our problem and the horse was much better. Good even. Now that she has passed, I still hear her saying "Relax, you know what to do." What I must do, and frankly what we all must do: keep the sport growing beyond where you can imagine it could go.

Share your knowledge. Stay focused on your goals. Be active in your community. Never stop learning. Be a bold supporter of dressage in this country and let's see how big of an impact we can all have together.



LINCOLN
FORGE & FARRIER

Zack Hamilton

402.875.1433

SCHOOL'S IN SESSION

USDF Regional Schooling Show Awards Program



Photo by Bob Tarr

NEW FOR 2020

Recognizing USDF Group Members for finishing at the "top of their class" in each of USDF's nine regions, for their achievements at schooling shows.

4 DIVISIONS

- Open*
- Junior/Young Rider
- Adult Amateur
- Non-Professional

*Introductory not awarded in Open Division

7 LEVELS

- Introductory
- Training
- First
- Second
- Third
- Fourth
- FEI

NOMINATE AT
WWW.USDF.ORG



USDF



Barn Highlight: Legacy Dressage

"I answered an ad on Craigslist" is usually the start of a bad tale with a good plot twist near the end. For Gracia Huenefeld, though, Craigslist happened to hold the answer to prayers and the blueprint of a lifelong dream. And also a positive ending, spoiler alert.

Holding her USDF Bronze and Silver medal, Gracia started her own business in 2017, working independently as a trainer and developing Legacy Dressage, LLC. Since starting her own business, Gracia saw an increase in the number of horses in training and an ever-increasing client base. Every great business needs a private facility with potential for growth, however, and that is exactly what Gracia was prepared to wait for. A casual need to board a private horse took her to multiple platforms to facilitate her search, like Facebook and Craigslist. And so it was on Craigslist, that Gracia spotted an advertisement for boarding, and took a simple tour of a barn in Northeast Lincoln.

The history of the barn itself is rather storied. Originally a state-of-the-art Halter breeding and training facility for Quarter Horses, the barn had since been used for boarding for over ten years.

That was all before Gracia stepped foot inside the barn and saw the potential just waiting to be uncovered. Gracia left that property tour with a plan

for a full-fledged training operation, drawing from her past experience in barn management, and moved 8 horses into the facility in October 2018, which has doubled in capacity within the year. The property consists of 15 acres with large turnout fields, and is now home to 16 horses, under the management and training schedule of Gracia herself. While Gracia's place is not a boarding facility, all the horses in residence are in some form of training with her.

The facility boasts 9 stalls, a fully-insulated barn, large runs or pastures for daily turnout, and an indoor and outdoor arena for client use and training sessions. Gracia enjoys providing her clients with educational opportunities through clinics, like the recent Michelle Folden clinic. The goal of Legacy Dressage is to provide a welcoming atmosphere for horses and clients to achieve their goals, through a positive education environment. The barn and its clients reflect

Gracia's own passion for horses, and her personal journey of dedication to her business, while nurturing a desire to pass her knowledge on to those around her.

To learn more about Gracia's training facility at Legacy Dressage, visit her at www.legacydressagellc.com or join her business Facebook page.



sun valley
LANDSCAPING

ENVIRONMENTS
TO FIT YOUR LIFE

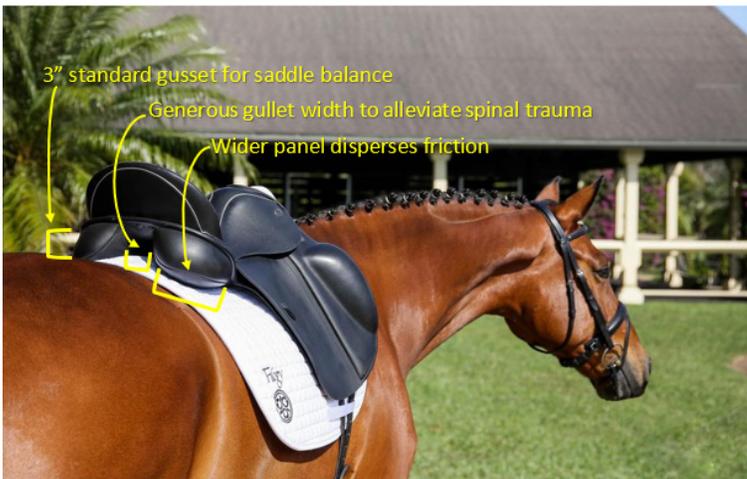




5601 Harrison St. Omaha, NE 68157
 (402) 932-5704 | SunValleyOmaha.com





Trilogy fun fact, do you know that...

1. Trilogy monoflaps have square cantles and Calf covered flaps
2. Trilogy dualflaps offer 3 different size of blocks (standard, HB, and short)
3. Trilogy does have a jump saddle and its name is Talisman

Sponsor Spotlight - Trilogy

If you want to know more about Trilogy, you can check out our website at: <https://performancesaddlery.com/> and give your Trilogy Fitter (Mandy Chao) a call to schedule a fitting.

Saddles are valuable riding aids for riders. A well-designed saddle should put you in the correct position without you working hard for it.

Think about this, if you have to constantly think about, "Am I sitting straight?" - "Keep your legs back!!" - "Don't lean forward" ... are you really riding efficiently?

Have you ever taken a closer look at Trilogy saddles and wonder what made Trilogy saddles unique?

Trilogy is designed with Riders in mind:

- 3 classic dualflap models and 3 monoflap models offer unique seat contour choices

Monoflaps

Allegiance
Ethos
Luminary

Dualflaps

Amadeo
Debbie McDonald
Verago

- Anatomically shaped thigh blocks enhancing natural drape of your legs
- Close contact! Molded flaps provide closest contact in leg position



Trilogy

Mandy Chao

Trilogy
Authorized Saddle Fitter

P: 314-384-9132
E: integritysaddlefitting@gmail.com
www.performancesaddlery.com

2019 Scholarship Reports

With the end of the year upon us, naturally we received a few reports from our scholarship recipients, which we are excited to share with you in this scholarship series. We hope that you will all take advantage of this amazing scholarship program NDA offers our members in 2020 by applying for these funds to finance your riding educational dreams this coming year.

KATHY HANFORD

My week at Sarah Martin's in Blanca Colorado was a sea-change for Gem's and my relationship.

I was very excited, but nervous when I was awarded the Carol Lavell Gifted Memorial Fund Grant. I had bought Goldhills Gemini, a 2007 Welsh Cob, two years earlier as a 60th birthday present to myself. Gem was new to dressage and also found new situations scary. We had been working on building his (and my) confidence, but seemed to have hit a wall. He found the alpaca, Carl and the cows at our barn frightening, no matter how many times he saw them.

Gem and I had the opportunity to ride in several Sarah Martin clinics. The more I rode with Sarah, the more my riding improved and the better Gem's attitude became. I knew that being able to ride at Sarah's training facilities would take both Gem and me way out of our comfort zone and give us techniques for us to successfully deal with new situations. I also knew that working with Sarah every day would allow us to develop the balance I needed at the canter and understand the appropriate aids for transitioning between gaits.

My husband, Steve and I dropped Gem off on Friday at Sarah's on our way to Statistics meetings in Denver.

I wanted both Gem and I to have a week to adjust to the altitude and for Sarah to have a week to work with Gem. It was great seeing a picture of Gem being ridden that Saturday in the big outdoor arena!

On Thursday, after dropping Steve off at the airport, I headed back down to Blanca to start my week. I stopped at Sarah's Thursday afternoon and got a chance to see the other riders who were just completing their first of two weeks at Sarah's lesson. It was great getting the chance to see what to expect from the week and to meet my riding family, four wonderful women from Oklahoma. One of

them was Nancy Trait-Lira, who had also been awarded the Carol Lavell Gifted Memorial Scholarship. Her horse, Dutch and Gem became pasture buddies and Nancy and I became great friends.



I voice-recorded my daily lessons on my phone. In the evening, I would listen to the recording and write down what I learned in the Equestrian Journal that was given to me by The Dressage Foundation as part of the Scholarship. It was so nice to have these notes to review before the next lesson. Gem and I were able to make more progress being able to start out where we had left off the previous lesson.

Friday morning, Sarah offered me the opportunity to hack out with her on Gem. Unfortunately, I did not take her up on it, since I was just too scared to ride Gem outside an arena! I was having enough trouble thinking about riding in Sarah's big arena for the first time. What I hadn't realized was how much growth Gem had made the prior week on overcoming his fears and anxiety. Gem learned this through both extensive ground work and hacking out around the property.

Our first lesson with Sarah started out with learning some groundwork to increase our communication. Gem was already an old pro at this. I was amazed at how my usually nervous, anxious horse was already so relaxed. I was very nervous when I first mounted. However, Gem amazed me by remaining relaxed and attentive. Although, I had a lot of basics to learn that first day "Release, Relax, Find the Balance", Gem was fantastic the whole time. I loved that we were also encouraged to watch as many lessons as possible hanging out with our horses. It gave Gem the chance to just stand near me for one or two hours, relax and enjoy being a horse.

Saturday we had a group lesson where we started out with a relaxing groundwork session, followed by a short small group lesson and then sent out in small group hacks. I was so nervous about going on a hack. I was not ready! However, Gem was. He was like an old trail horse. I rode him on the buckle and after a few minutes was able to relax and enjoy both the scenery and the company. We had already accomplished one of my goals!

Sunday was a day of rest for the horses. Gem and Dutch had a great day relaxing in the pasture.

Monday and Tuesday I learned some additional groundwork games to use to build Gem's and my communication. We had private lessons both days. On Tuesday, Sarah put a heart-rate monitor on Gem, so we could see how his heart rate changed during different activities. I worked mostly on balance, separation of aids and keeping my horse straight.

One comment Sarah made, I really liked. She said that you want a relaxed sleepy state in a horse, because it is easy to activate, while it is hard to steady down a hyper-vigilant horse. I find that I think about this still when I am riding Gem.

Wednesday was a group lesson day. I enjoyed the group lessons, since it gave me the chance to watch and learn from other riders. We worked on the different movements for a training level dressage test.

Sarah emphasized how a dressage test is just putting together these movements. One of the other riders, Kay, is also an "L" graduate. We each had a chance to ride a test with Kay judging and Sarah coaching us through each movement. It was a great experience and solidified the concept that a test is just putting together movements and not something to be intimidated by.

Both Gem and I were very tired by now, so we had a short, but fantastic lesson. We had the chance to put together all of the things we learned during the week. I was so happy with where we ended, I was in tears. Sarah labelled the recording "Last Day Awesome."

I loaded Gem up early Friday morning for our trip back to Nebraska. He and I were both sad to go. We had had such a fantastic experience at Sarah's and made such good friends.

Gem and I have continued to build on what we started at Sarah's. I continue doing the ground work and went to a Pete Rodda clinic last week to learn more techniques. I can now ride Gem in the outdoor arena with Carl the alpaca and the cows close by and he doesn't blink an eye. We've even ridden down the lane with a friend, which is something I never did before. This communication has allowed us to keep improving. I had a lesson with Sarah a month after our week at her place and she was very happy with where we were at.



SHAN LAWTON DRESSAGE LLC

Helping horses and riders
achieve their potential
from training level to Grand Prix!

OMAHA & LINCOLN

617.877.0785

shan.lawton@gmail.com
shanlawtondressage.com

ALEXA STARNER

2019 was the year I decided to face my fear of “scary clinicians” and see what all the buzz was about. I was awarded the Youth NDA Scholarship so it was the perfect opportunity. In July I rode with Sarah Martin. I had gotten the chance prior to watch her teach some adults and I went into this experience a little worried that she may be tough on me. I was wrong! Sarah was patient, kind and complimentary. We worked on getting Jet to carry himself more and to get him to listen to my leg more.



In September we made the trip up to visit Jane Fucinaro’s new place (beautiful, by the way) to ride with Missy Fladland. I had heard good things about her so I was anxious to get her feedback and after having one clinic under my belt I was more relaxed going into it. I think my two rides with Missy were the most beneficial for Jet and myself. Everyone has an ‘ah ha’ moment and I think this came when Missy told me to “ride as if you are your trainer riding your horse”. This seems like such a simple concept but it definitely opened my eyes that I need to ask (i.e. demand, at times) more from Jet. There is a point in which you have to realize that even though you love your horse, they have to do their job too. He may not appreciate this revelation I have come to, but I definitely see the progress we are making.

My last clinic of 2019 was in October, again at Jane’s place, with Clayton Martin. I got to ride with Maria Albers and Mia Newman which was a lot of fun. We worked on keeping our horses forward, moving the shoulders, cavaletti and lateral work. After our first day of rides, Maria, Mia and I got to take a hack out through Jane’s field and get to know each other a little more. It was a great weekend! It is interesting to see how Clayton and his wife, Sarah Martin, teach differently while still making the same points. It may be the same information, but how it presented makes such a difference and I think you may pick up one thing you didn’t from the other.

I am grateful to the NDA for allowing me to have the opportunity to ride with all 3 “scary” clinicians. If anyone is having hesitation on taking that step, I say do it! You never know what you might take away from those rides and it could be that push you need!

Thank you!

MICHELLE ROHMAN

Last month, I had the opportunity to participate in a 3-day clinic with Michelle Folden. My horse, Pan, and I made the big jump to Second Level this last summer, showing successfully at the local and regional level. While showing, we identified several areas that needed improvement prior to competing at Third, and my goals with Michelle reflected those weaknesses.

The first time Michelle met Pan, she identified that he prefers to work behind the leg, and this remains true today. A key element of introducing collection to Pan was maintaining his forward energy, and I asked Michelle to help me keep this thought as we brought him even more uphill into Third.

On day one, we started by talking through the fundamentals of collection. Michelle suggested warming up “through the levels” - that is, the horse should be able to execute a simple change through the trot before the walk, and if those movements can’t be completed, a flying change will not be successful. Michelle reminded me that impulsion comes before submission, so when the horse gets tight or heavy in the bridle, the rider should engage the hind end and ask the horse to move forward instead of trying to fix the submission in the bridle. This is especially true for a lazy horse, like Pan. Remembering to maintain energy, especially in the collected gaits, also helps resolve issues with submission.

Additionally, horses that are behind the leg should not always be given a walk break as a reward.



Michelle suggested an alternative - allowing the horse to stretch into a more round frame while at the trot or canter. Michelle emphasized that at this level, the horse does not necessarily need to stretch more "out" but should instead be more "round." I've implemented this reward during every ride since the clinic and found that Pan enjoys it and is able to continue work without having to fight his brain, which I tend to lose during long walk breaks.

Michelle is a graduate of the "L" program, and provides key insight into a judge's thought process when scoring movements. I asked for help with the turns on the haunches, as Pan tends to stick with his hind legs and lose the energy. Michelle informed me that walk turns can have 3-4 steps and that the horse should maintain the bend throughout the turn. She also identified that I was hindering the walk turn by not weighting the appropriate side of my hip. She reminded me that horses follow the rider's weight. I carried this thought into our later work with shoulder-in, haunches-in, leg yield, and half pass.



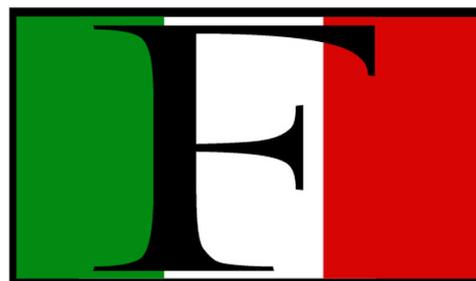
On day 2, we started work in the canter. We warmed up with simple changes through the trot and walk as well as changes in the gait from medium to collected. This was to ensure that Pan was responsive to my leg aid, and because transitions help encourage the horse to sit in the hind end. We then introduced flying changes. Changes are new to Pan and me, and understanding the proper aids and timing takes quite a bit of practice. Michelle explained that to ask for a change, the rider should push the horse away from the new lead to free up the shoulder. Pan also tends to fall out with his haunches, so I also asked him to keep his haunches underneath himself to maintain balance. One exercise that helped us accomplish this was to leg yield from the second track into a haunches in on the long side, then asking for the medium canter. Pan struggled with the

changes at first, as did I.

One technique that worked was asking for a haunches-in on a twenty meter canter circle, then changing directions across the arena and asking for the new haunches-in at X with a strong outside leg aid. I found this helped me shift my balance appropriately and encouraged Pan to change by freeing up his shoulder. Using this technique, I have gotten clean changes during most rides since the clinic - some days we like to keep things simple to avoid burnout.

On day 3, we worked mostly in the trot, starting with transitions in and between the gaits and then working into lateral movement. To teach Pan (and me) the half pass, we started by changing his body laterally. Michelle reminded me that upper level movements are not possible until the horse can be manipulated both in forward and lateral movements. We prepared by doing a shoulder-in to shoulder-out, then haunches-in to haunches-out. Next, we did a leg yield from the quarterline into a shoulder-in, and a leg yield into haunches-in. Then, finally, we executed a shoulder-in into a half pass. I found this movement to be simple once Pan was balanced and responsive. Michelle also explained the purpose of each leg in the lateral movements, which helped me identify how and when to use my legs. In the shoulder-in, the outside leg is the driving aid. In the haunches-in, the inside leg is the driving aid. This translates into the half pass by using the inside leg as the driving aid and the outside leg as the sideways aid.

I left this clinic with more knowledge than I could have ever hoped for on the foundation for third level movements. I am so grateful to NDA for providing me with this opportunity, as three day clinics have never been a possibility for me in the past and Pan seemed to improve exponentially throughout the weekend. I feel very lucky to have gained this new knowledge, and I am so excited to build up my horse and myself over the winter.



FUCINARO EXCAVATING

402.733.4100

Western Dressage Corner

Reminder that USEF has granted Dr. Sheila Purdum a 'r' Western Dressage license. She is now qualified and available to judge WDAA classes at USEF and NDA schooling shows.

Congratulations, Sheila!

At the WDAA World Championship show held at the Lazy E Arena this October, NDA members had great success.

Congratulations to junior member Emma Smith and her mare Nina for winning the Youth 1st Level Test One Test for a Grand Championship. Emma was also Reserve Champion in Western Horsemanship. Emma and Nina placed in the top ten with her Basic Level tests 2,3 and 4, resulting in a 4th place overall for Basic Level Youth Level.

Sheila Purdum's horse – Invite to Invest also had a successful show at the Championships being ridden by new NDA Member Jenna Brumm (Baldwin City, KS) to a 3rd place in Open Basic 1, 8th in Basic 2 and 10th in Basic 3 resulting in an overall place of 7th out of 38 entries in Basic Open.

Kimmie Peterson's horse Miss Golden Trigger and Kathy Lewis's Simon Says I'm Solo received their ROM plaques at the show as well. Invite to Invest earned his ROM at the show and currently ranks 102 in the U.S. Sheila Purdum's Others Will Follow ranks 84th in the U.S., Kathy Lewis Enchantment ranks 90th and Emily Johnsons Frisco ranks 97th.

To have 4 horses in the top 100 rankings shows what a competitive state we are in the WDAA arena. Congratulations to all of our Western Dressage riders success in 2019.

We have exciting plans for 2020 including a grant application to the TDF for a Lynn Palm Western Dressage Clinic at the University of Nebraska Equestrian facilities and a progressive WDAA/NDA schooling show calendar.

We are very appreciative of the strong recognition of western dressage in the NDA organization and look forward to a growing membership and participation in our events.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Do you have something to advertise?

Classified ads are \$5 for NDA members and \$10 for non-members. They will appear on this page of the website for 90 days, in addition to one issue of *The Contact*.

Advertising images, documentation, and any questions should be sent to Margo Hamilton at margoreham@gmail.com. Checks should be made payable to NDA and should be sent to Kathy Hanford, 10301 W. Pioneers Blvd, Denton, NE, 68533

NDA makes no endorsements or representation in connection with advertisements placed in this section.

Region 4 News

Congratulations to the following 2019 USDF L Education Program Graduates:

Region 4:
Samantha Martinson, MN

USDF is excited to introduce the new USDF Regional Schooling Show Awards Program. This program starts December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020 and offers regional recognition to USDF Group Members competing in participating non-USEF-licensed/non-USDF-recognized competitions.

All non-USEF-licensed/non-USDF-recognized competitions are invited to participate in this program. To participate, simply submit the USDF online application and \$25 participation fee to USDF at least 30 days prior to the start of the competition.

KidGlov
Brand Advancement

402.483.9922

Local Trainers

In 2019, we wanted to spotlight the incredible opportunities our members have to access some of the top trainers in the country, right in our own backyard. Whether you are looking to progress to showing at the next level or are looking for feedback before show season, use this resource of our local trainers. Want to be featured as a trainer? Email newsletter@nebraskadressage.org.

Lincoln Area

Margo Hamilton, MA

Lincoln Equestrian Center - Lincoln, NE
402-450-8294
margoreham@gmail.com
lincolnequestriancenter.net

Margo Hamilton is a native Nebraskan with over 30 years of experience in the saddle. Margo has her USDF Bronze Medal and has a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling. Margo combines her expertise in mental health counseling and classical dressage training to create a positive, solution-focused system of training. Her holistic approach to training and teaching includes components of rider fitness, academic understanding, confidence building, as well as execution of movements. Margo emphasizes harmony between horse and rider as well as conditioning of horse and rider. She works with riders of many abilities in many disciplines believing: responsive horses, and confident riding are transferrable skills. Margo is available for lessons, show coaching and conditioning of horses.

Gracia Huenefeld

Legacy Dressage, LLC
graciarae@yahoo.com
402-604-0060

USDF Silver and Bronze medalist and having successfully competed at the FEI level for a number of years, Gracia Huenefeld is available for training, teaching, sales, clinics, or coaching at shows. Whether teaching the youngster how to ride for the first time or taking the student or horse up the levels, Gracia is enthusiastic to pass on all she can to her student of any age! Students are welcome to trailer-in their own horses for lessons or check with her about the availability of a lesson horse. Gracia is also available to travel to teach on a limited basis. For more information, check out Legacy Dressage, LLC on Facebook or contact Gracia at (402) 604-0060 or graciarae@

yahoo.com.

Emily Johnson

Mountain Rose Ranch – Kearny, NE
Website: MountainRoseHorsemanship.com
Phone: 402-522-MRHT (6748)
Email: emily@mountainrosehorsemanship.com

Emily considers herself a lifetime student of the horse, believing there is no end to the learning process or to the expansive wisdom the horse has to offer. Inspired by the philosophies and methods of some of the greatest horsemen and horsewomen throughout history, she developed her own comprehensive curriculum, Wholeness Through Horsemanship™. Her instruction is inspired by the principles of natural horsemanship, ranch horsemanship, and classical dressage and reflects her passion for equipping both horses and humans for success on their journey toward individual wholeness and ultimate partnership. Emily, as well, is on the cutting edge of the new Western Dressage movement being one of only a small group of instructors in the nation to complete the Western Dressage Association of America®'s Train the Trainers™ program.

Jami Kment

Providence Farm – Palmyra, NE
402-450-3902
kjkment@yahoo.com

Jami Kment is a bronze, silver and gold medalist. She teaches and trains out of Providence Farm, a top notch dressage training facility where she provides quality, positive education for the horse and rider. Jami has brought her students up to the very top in competition including top ten finishes at The Festival of Champions and North American Junior Young Rider Championships. She and her students have won a total of 15 regional championships. Jami is a USDF "L" graduate, a wife, and a mother of three. See her and some of her students on the Providence Farm webpage at www.providencefarm.net.

Dara Liss

Falkland Stables - 1565 S. 98th Street, Lincoln 68520
402-617-1194

I have been actively learning, teaching and training horses and riders in the art of dressage for 35 years. The more I learn, the more I realize there is so much MORE to learn. I am an advocate for the horse's well-being and the safety of the rider.

My training techniques improve communication between horse and rider by blending classical dressage training and natural horsemanship. My goal is to create a relaxed learning environment for horse and rider. I will identify your strengths and those of your horse, listen to your concerns and help you apply the basics of riding - a supple forward moving horse - to achieve your goals.

Angie McClelland

Middle Cross Stables - Roca, NE 68430
angiemcclelland77@gmail.com

Angie McClelland has ridden and taught dressage for nearly 20 years and is dedicated to a classical-yet-practical approach to this most challenging of disciplines. Angie has a talent for helping horses make the transition to dressage and for creative problem-solving when problems arise. Angie believes that every horse can be improved with dressage concepts, such as strengthening the topline and developing suppleness and relaxation to promote soundness and longevity. Angie leads the area's only dressage-specific 4-H club and is experienced in teaching young riders; she also enjoys teaching adult students. Angie is based at Middle Cross Stables, and can teach lessons at that facility or travel to your barn or arena for lessons.

Lyle and Sheila Purdum

S and L Stables - Bennet, NE
402-560-2255
purdumstables@gmail.com

Offering lessons, both English and Western Dressage (Sheila); 8 + yrs NDA member and medal winner and 11+ yrs 4-H club leader.

Laura Stueck

Still Waters Equestrian Academy - Hickman, NE
stillwaterseq.org
402-432-0543
402-432-8384

Still Waters Equestrian Academy employs Laura Stueck as their instructor and trainer. Laura provides lessons on Still Waters lesson horses or on her students' horses. She also offers schooling for client's horses on a limited basis. Laura has received her Instructor Certification from American Association of Horsemanship Safety and in the Secure Seat Method and has more than five years instructing beginning to intermediate riders attain their goals focusing on safety and the basics.

Omaha Area

Jane Fucinaro Dressage

402-504-8113
jfucinaro@gmail.com

Based out of Omaha, NE, Jane is now accepting new students of all types of backgrounds, disciplines and skill sets. Jane Fucinaro Dressage emphasizes the well-being of horse and rider while upholding classical techniques and presenting a systematic approach of training to the horse. Young horses are welcomed into the program and started with a slow process of groundwork and eventually undersaddle training. For more information, visit online at janefucinarodressage.com!

Shan Lawton

617-877-0785
shan.lawton@gmail.com
shanlawtondressage.com

Shan Lawton has over 30 years of experience in the art and sport of dressage, yielding an understanding of both human psychology and physiology. Shan holds USDF Bronze and Silver Medals. He has trained horses and riders competing successfully through Grand Prix. Shan's clients range in level of expertise from lower level non-competing dressage riders to successful competing FEI riders, along with multiple eventing clients and clients wishing simply to work on their flat work, and in age from young riders to retirees. Shan teaches and trains in Omaha and Lincoln, NE and is available for clinics anywhere.

Becky Parker

Reinbow Dressage Center - Springfield, NE
402-578-3891
parkerdressage@gmail.com

From posting to passage, Parker Dressage can help make your riding dreams a reality. Becky Parker, owner/operator of Parker Dressage has successfully competed all dressage levels Training Level thru Grand Prix in both Canada and the United States. Her students have competed successfully Intro Level through FEI. Located in Springfield, NE, at Reinbow Dressage Center, Parker Dressage offers training and lessons for horses and riders of all levels and disciplines. So whether you are wanting to ride a horse for the first time, or further your dressage training, Parker Dressage is here to help you with your equine journey. School horse available for beginning kids' lessons or may horse trailer in.

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

13 NDA Board Meeting - 6:30
North Misty's Steakhouse

17-19 Shaggy Horse Dressage
Schooling Show, Lancaser
Event Center

FEBRUARY

10 NDA Board Meeting, 6:30
North Misty's Steakhouse

25-26 2nd Annual Central Nebraska
Dressage Classic Show and
Ride-A-Test, Mountain Rose
Ranch, Kearney, NE

MARCH

9 NDA Board Meeting, 6:30
North Misty's Steakhouse

MAY

9 UNL Equine Western
Dressage Clinic, UNL Animal
Science

APRIL

9-12 The International Omaha,
CHI Health Center in
Omaha

11 NDA Board Meeting, 6:30
North Misty's Steakhouse

13 NDA Board Meeting, 6:30
North Misty's Steakhouse

22-24 NDA's Cornhusker Classic
Schooling Show, and
Cornhusker Classic Show I &
II. Lancaster Event Center

TDF: *Your Source for Support*

Thanks to generous donors,
grants are available for:



Instructors
Judges
Technical Delegates
Show Management
Adult Amateurs
Youth
Breeders
High Performance Riders
Non-Profit Equestrian
Organizations and USDF GMOs

Visit dressagefoundation.org
and click on "Support" or call
(402) 434-8585 to donate.

The Dressage
Foundation's donors
provide support to
improve dressage in the
United States.

Your donation helps to
build a stronger, more
accomplished dressage
community.



Photo by Susan J Stickle:
Olivia LaGoy-Weltz,
2015 Lavell Advanced
Prize Recipient

Your contribution to The Dressage Foundation is an investment in your dressage community. Thank you!