



# The Contact

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

## INSIDE:

- 1 Letter from the Editor
- 2 Year-End Banquet Info
- 3 Shoutout Corner
- 4 Debbie McDonald Clinic
- 5 Barn Highlight on Providence Farm
- 6 “We Love Dara” Show & Tack Swap
- 8 10 Equestrian Holiday Gifts
- 9 Shoutout Corner
- 11 Classifieds
- 12 Calendar

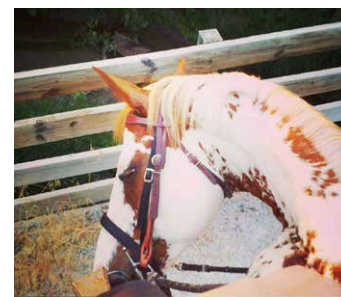
## Letter from the Editor

As this year draws to a close, I am so happy to share with you all the news: NDA took home 4 GMO Awards this year from USDF! Congratulations to Casey Blum for a photography Honorable Mention, Kate Rawlinson for a 1st Place newsletter article, Michaela Schieffer for an Honorable Mention newsletter article, and Melissa Ward for Honorable Mention for our website. These awards are a reflection of how amazing our organization is and I could not be more proud to share the results. In the coming year, I would still really love to see a few more articles from our members, so we have some choices for next year’s awards! Any length or subject is fine, and I will edit anything you send, so please don’t hesitate to send us a few pieces!

I also hope to see you all at the Fundraiser show for Dara – mark your calendars now for November 5th! I’m excited to meet every one else in the community who have had their love of horses shaped by the incredible Dara Liss. And you all certainly do not want to miss my fabulous announcing skills, so I will see you all there!

Always Yours,  
Michaela Schieffer

**Michaela Schieffer**  
*NDA Editor*  
[newsletter@nebraskadressage.org](mailto:newsletter@nebraskadressage.org)



SAVE THE DATE!  
NOVEMBER  
19

# 2016 Year-End Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting

Join us in celebrating all you and your horse have accomplished this year at our yearly banquet! This is NDA's only all-member meeting each year, and it's where we elect our new board members and officers. We also hand out year-end awards, have a great dinner, and catch up with friends!

**This year's banquet will be Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016, at Ashland Golf Club in Ashland, NE!**



**Above is a sample of a few items from our Silent Auction to look forward to. Don't miss out on the opportunity to grab one-of-a-kind items and compete over items with your NDA friends!**



**There will be new trophies this year, donated graciously by Jami Kment and Tish and Tillie Jones! Above is a sneak peek of what to expect from the new trophies.**

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**SHOUTOUT CORNER**



NDA now has the honor of having a World Title holder in our ranks. Congratulations to Kate Rawlinson and her incredible horse, Image, for earning Reserve World Titles in both Training Level and First Level at the Morgan Grand Nationals. You both have come so far in the last year and deserve every bit of recognition for it!



Congratulations are in order to NDA junior member Ashley Duran and her 4-year-old KWPN gelding Honor (bred by Linda Smith) for being #1 in the nation for USDF Training Level Junior. We are so proud to have you as an NDA member and cannot wait to see what is in your futures together!



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BOARDING - TRAINING - LESSONS  
SUMMER DAY CAMPS

## Debbie McDonald Cline

This September, riders from all over the region were blessed with a special opportunity. Three-time Olympic champion and USEF Developing Coach Debbie McDonald brought her incredible expertise and arsenal of Olympic stories to our doorstep. Riders of all levels, from 1st Level to Grand Prix, juniors to professionals gathered to audit and ride at Providence Farm. Everyone who attended the event gained a wealth of knowledge, benefitted greatly in their own riding, and listened to some great stories from Rio.

There were incredible moments for some riders, like Casey Blum having a lightbulb moment early in the weekend and applying it through the rest of the weekend. Amy Blum, mother of Casey, particularly loved how personalized Debbie made each individual ride. “Debbie remembered Casey’s ride from last time and noticed how they have improved. The greatest thing is that just a month ago, she was at the Olympics and it is incredible to see her here and have her remember everyone!”



Debbie talked with everyone after their rides, during the Purina-sponsored lunch, and was an incredible friend to every person in attendance. Meeting her was a dream come true for many riders, yet Debbie in turn spoke so highly about all the riders at

the clinic. “I truly think everyone was well-mounted and educated about their riding. They are all really on a good path and it is always fun to come here.”

With such great feedback for all riders in attendance and such positive strides in every rider’s own education, we will eagerly await Debbie’s next clinic at Providence Farm! ❖

I have had the privilege of riding with Debbie McDonald for the past four years in clinics here in the Midwest. I am very grateful to her and those that host her, as we do not get opportunities of her caliber in our area very often. She is not only an accomplished rider and trainer, she has a way with riders and horses that is not often found.



I love her insight and depth of knowledge, she is quick to see the tiniest of disconnects and tells you quickly how to correct it. She focuses on the thoroughness and quality of gait and stays with you every step of the way until its where it needs to be. I love that every ride she walks you through the warm-up and as the ride progresses your horse gets more supple and soft. She has a system that is clear and easy to understand, no matter what level the rider is.

She is very down to earth, very caring and I love her sense of humor. I appreciate all those qualities while riding and just being around her. She really does care about each and every rider she teaches and that shows when you hear her teach. I enjoy riding with her but also calling her a friend.

Melissa Allen

USDF FEI certified instructor  
USDF bronze, silver and gold medalist

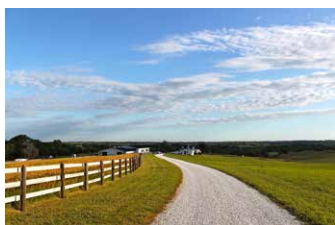


## BARN HIGHLIGHT

by Michaela Schieffer

Nebraska often feels like the “diamond in the rough” of the dressage world. Visiting other states, it is not uncommon to hear surprise that we have such a thriving dressage community in our state. They are even more surprised when they hear of the quality of clinicians and the attendance numbers of our shows. Nothing embodies the heartbeat of this thriving culture more than the startling state-of-the-art dressage facility nestled outside the southeastern city limits of Lincoln, Providence Farm.

### A Picture-Perfect View



All settled within the picturesque 72 acre grounds, owners Mike and Linda Smith first built their house, before daughter and trainer Jami and husband Kevin added the barn and their house to the

property, creating a welcoming family atmosphere for its riders. Walking into the barn itself, it is impossible to not to notice the amenities and personal touches throughout. From premier geo-textile footing in the indoor arena, a full outdoor dressage arena, a stunning wood-paneled viewing room and lounge, to an exceptionally clean barn environment, everything about the facility feels peaceful and inspiring.

“Our goal is achieving harmony between horse and rider. We have the expectation of a positive learning environment, so there is a great support system for our riders. They encourage and cheer each other on so everyone can achieve their goals.”

**LINDA SMITH, OWNER**

## Providence Farm

### The Best Teachers Are Also Good Students

The trainers and riders at Providence have a shared passion for correct riding and developing a foundation that they can take to any level. Jami has a long history of training horses from their first ride all the way to Grand Prix, and helping riders become effective in their riding, by giving them a foundation that they can take to any level. Jami is a long-time student and friend of Steffen Peters, Conrad Schumacher, Kathy Connelly and Debbie McDonald, and is also a USDF “L” judge alongside her riding history as a USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Medalist and a USEF High Performance Athlete. She trains down at the farm’s sister facility in Florida during the coldest winter months, and it is through these close relationships she has created that allow for world-renowned clinicians Debbie McDonald and Kathy Connelly to visit Nebraska through clinics at Providence and bring their incredible expertise within reach of our community.



Jami has always had the desire to learn from top trainers and bring their fresh perspective back to Nebraska to be accessible to the Midwestern dressage community. “I feel very strongly that you need to be a good student to be a great instructor. If you are unable to put yourself out there to be critiqued and pushed how will you become better?”

From bringing Olympian clinicians to our doorstep and continually enriching Nebraska’s dressage community in all they do, Providence Farm shines as the brightest gem on the prairie. ❖



# We Love Dara!

by Michaela Schieffer

If you grew up with dressage in the Lincoln area, chances are you also grew up with an amazing woman named Dara Liss. Dara has been the heart and backbone of our dressage community for decades, and has helped shape many of us into riders who appreciate every facet of a deep partnership with our horses and extend this love beyond the show ring. Taking a lesson with Dara is like a group therapy lesson, where horse and rider can re-establish lines of communication that they didn't know were broken and discovering new strengths together. If you have ever had the pleasure of riding with Dara, you know exactly how this feels.

Dara has given so much to our local community and it is time for us to give something back to her. A few months ago, Dara had an unfortunate accident at the barn and has been unable to horse around like usual. We want to show her how much she means to this community and help with a few of her medical bills in the process.

With Jami Kment of Providence Farms as the judge and the fabulous facilities at Salt Creek Wranglers for

a venue, you will definitely want to come join the fun. Even if you are unable to show your horse or missed the show deadline, please mark November 5th on your calendars to come out and show your support through your presence.

We will make sure there are plenty of fun events for non-riders, from delicious concessions to a silent auction, not to mention a large tack swap! In fact, if you email Jennifer Cashmere at jennifercashmere@gmail.com, you can still add your items to her list and bring them the day of the show! We encourage you all to be active bidders in our silent auction and tack swap and to invite friends and family to come eat with us and bid, too. Thanks to some very generous donors and amazing volunteers, all proceeds from the show, silent auction, tack swap, and concessions will be given to Dara!

Help make this the dressage community's social event of the year and let's end Dara's stall rest together! ❖

## Tack Swap Items



**Raising Cane's Gift Basket**  
Contains Raising Cane's merchandise such as a t-shirt, water bottle, 2 Free Box Combo cards, and other smaller item.

**Trader Joe's Gift Bag**  
Popcorn, salsa, herbal tea, coffee cake mix, sweet chile sauce, stuffed grape leaves, dark chocolate almonds, peanut butter cups, artichokes, and cookies.



One Session of Equine Body work with Jane Fucinaro using Masterson Method., session lasting 45-90 minutes.

**FEI World Cup Finals in Omaha**

Two ticket vouchers to the Omaha Grand Prix and 2 passes to the VIP lounge on Saturday, April 1, 2017

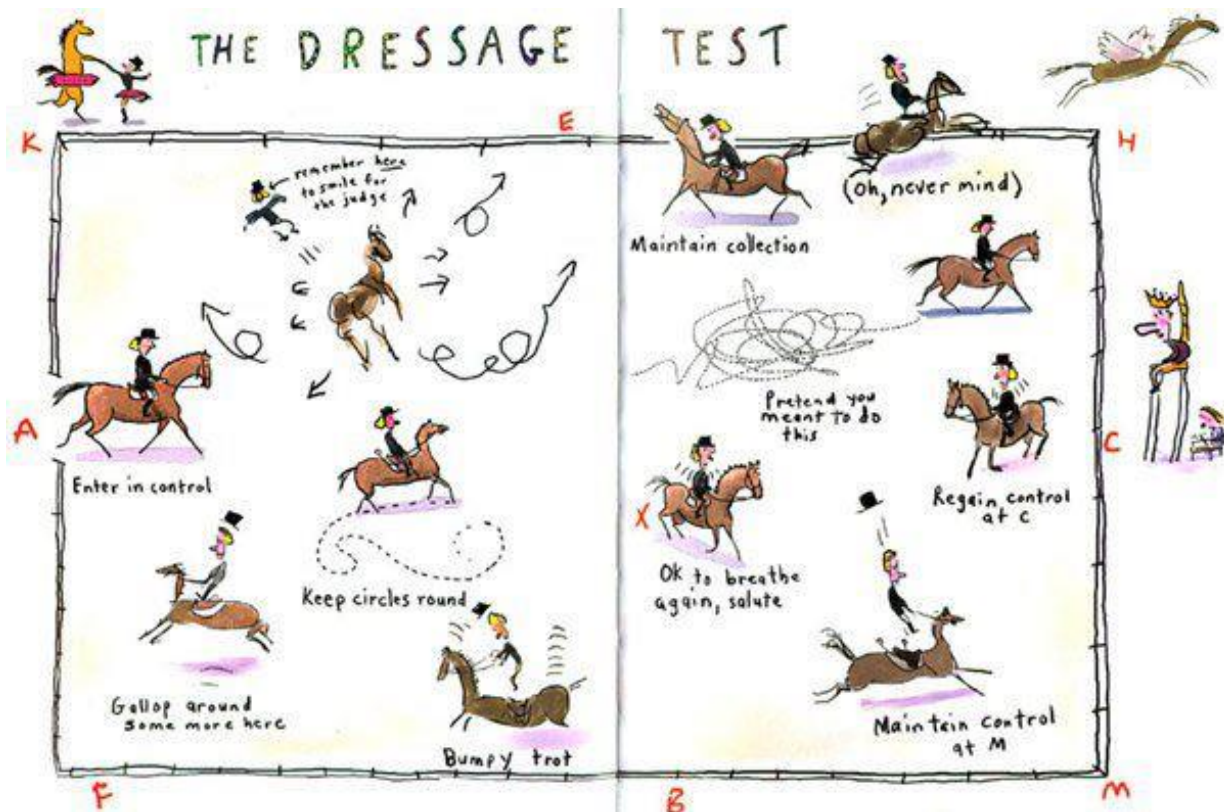


**Outdoor Aluminum Bench**  
Bench will have powder coated blue legs and white seat and back planks. It will not be red.

**Horse Show Survivor Kit**  
The kit includes a first aid kit for rider, coffee with mug, always need safety pins, lint roller. Sun block, wipes, sewing kit.



Horse show survivor kit



# “We ♥ Dara” Dressage Show

A Nebraska Dressage Association Recognized Schooling Show

🌀 Saturday, November 5, 2016 🌀

**Salt Creek Wranglers, 4300 S. Coddington Avenue, Lincoln, NE**

*(in case of inclement weather, show will be moved to Lancaster Event Center)*

*Dara Liss has given many Lincoln-area equestrians a foundation in dressage. Please join us in thanking her for her friendship and contributions to our sport. All proceeds will be gifted to her as she's on stall rest due to a broken arm.*

Prizelist will be posted on the [www.nebraskadressage.org](http://www.nebraskadressage.org) calendar.

Classic & Western Dressage available Intro through Second/Level 2.

NDA members can earn 2017 championship qualifying scores and awards!

Concessions available. Entries must be postmarked by October 17<sup>th</sup>.

To volunteer, call/text 402-560-3319 or [jcrawlinson@windstream.net](mailto:jcrawlinson@windstream.net).

# 10 Real Gifts for Equestrians This Holiday Season

by Michaela Schieffer

We've all been there. Opening yet another gift card or embarrassing horsie gift from a family member who thinks you like anything with a horse head stamped on it. Rather than risk another disappointing gift opening, try sending out a Christmas list with one of these chic items that even a non-horse person would understand the appeal.

1. Equine Love Wine Box - \$25 - FARMDesigns on Etsy

Because who doesn't love a class of wine after a great ride?



2. "Concentration" - metal print with wooden frame, also available in canvas - \$49 - Tarraf Photography



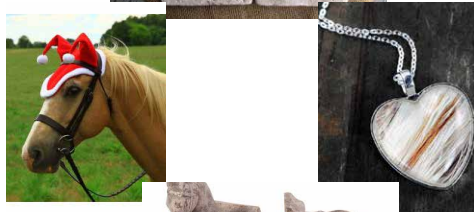
3. Horse Lovers Custom Cutting Board - \$35 - TheCuttingBoardShop on Etsy



4. Natural Stone Coaster Set - \$20 - TheKnottyWoodsmen on Etsy

5. Personalized Horse Hair Pendant - \$25 - SHDStudios on Etsy

Because we all have that one special horse that will stay in our hearts.



6. Shires Horse Holiday Hat - \$11.25 - State Line Tack

Because that hat would look awesome in Christmas pictures!



7. Old World Horse Book Ends by Howard Elliott - \$55 - Wayfair

For the book lover!

8. Gorgeous pearl brow band, made locally! - \$105-\$166 - Contact Melissa Ward

Or commission a custom-made piece through Melissa!



9. Heartland box set - from \$10 - Amazon

Because if you haven't watched this show, what have you been doing? And if you have watched this show, you know how great it is!



10. Custom Engraved Horse Stall Signs - \$37 - ShannonsCustom on Etsy

Because your horse deserves to look like royalty at the barn!





## SHOUTOUT CORNER

### The 2016 Lancaster County 4-H Horse Awards



Night was held Sept. 29. The evening recognized top achievements at the Lancaster County Super Fair and other accomplishments throughout the past year. Pictured are the winners of the Nebraska Dressage Association High Score Dressage Rider Award for high score riders in the 4-H Dressage Show at the Lancaster County Super Fair, sponsored by Nebraska Dressage Association. (Presented by Lauren VanNorman of the Nebraska Dressage Association.) See complete results at [lancaster.unl.edu/4h/horse/AwardsNite.shtml](http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/horse/AwardsNite.shtml)

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Visit [dressagefoundation.org](http://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!*

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Options shown. ©2013 Lexus.



**Looking for a great deal on tack?  
Head to the tack swap at the We  
Love Dara show at Salt Creek Wran-  
glers on Saturday, November 5th!**

## CLASSIFIED ADS

*Do you have something to  
advertise?*

Classified ads are \$5 for NDA members and \$10 for non-members. They will appear on the Classifieds 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 Gracia Huenefeld at [graciaae@yahoo.com](mailto:graciaae@yahoo.com). Checks should be made payable to NDA and should be sent to Kathy Hanford, 10301 W. Pioneers Blvd, Denton, NE, 68339.

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



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# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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## NOVEMBER

**5** "We Love Dara" Dressage Show at Salt Creek Wranglers, judged by Jami Kment of Providence Farms  
*Last show of the year!*

**10-13** USDF National Dressage Finals at Kentucky Horse Park

**19** NDA Tear-End Banquet & Awards Ceremony at the Ashland Golf Club

## DECEMBER

**NOV 30- DEC 3**  
USDF Annual Convention in St. Louis, MO

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## 2017 BYLAW UPDATES

October 17, 2016

Dear NDA Members:

Periodically, the NDA Board of Directors reviews and analyzes our Articles of Incorporation and our bylaws, which are printed in the [NDA Member Handbook](#) for your reference. If we find an issue that needs attention, we will discuss the topic and we may find that the solution lies in amending the language of the bylaws. This could be to increase efficiency, address outdated practices, or simplify procedures, among other reasons. As always, the priority of the board during these discussions is to better serve our NDA members.

Over the past year, a couple of small issues have come to our attention that, after discussion, the board believes should be addressed by amending our bylaws. Those issues are:

- 1) amending the language around how many representatives NDA will send to the USDF Annual Meeting, and
- 2) updating the specification of the per-day food allowance for representatives sent to the USDF Annual Meeting to be consistent with government standards.

### **Number of Representatives**

Currently, the bylaws state that NDA will pay to send one representative to the USDF Annual Meeting. The board would like to update this language to state that NDA will send “at least one” representative to this national conference.

This came up because there have been instances over the last several years where NDA desired to send more than one representative—the USDF annual meeting is a lot to take in, and NDA can often gather the most information from our governing body by dividing and conquering the agenda of committee meetings so that one NDA rep is always present in pertinent meetings (which are often double-booked). In years when only one representative has attended, that person has always come back and said they wished they’d had an additional person.

Also, it is beneficial for NDA to continue to increase its presence on the national dressage scene. The last few years have seen tremendous growth in our GMO, during a time when other GMOs across the country are struggling and fading. NDA representatives should be highly visible whenever possible, to help represent our group and our Region.

Over the last couple of years, the NDA board has made specific, special-case votes to send more than one representative, but would like to alleviate the need for this extra step by updating

the language of this Article and leaving it to the board to make the decision about how many NDA representatives to send based on current fiscal position and each year's budget.

### **Per-day Food Allowance**

Currently, the bylaws state that NDA representatives attending the USDF Annual Meeting will be given an allotment of \$50.00 per day food allowance. For some cities, this is perfectly appropriate, but in years when the meeting is held in a more expensive city, this is not enough. Prices have risen considerably since these Articles were drafted in 1973, and we think the Articles should be amended to account for this. The board suggests a food allotment in line with the government standard for the specified city in the specified year. A city's *Meals and Incidental Expenses (M&IE)* rate can be looked up on [the GSA website](#).

### **So, what now?**

The process for amending the bylaws is as follows:

- 1) Amended language is voted upon by the Board of Directors and must pass with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote. *(This board vote took place and was passed at the regular NDA board meeting on October 10, 2016.)*
- 2) Board-approved, proposed language is distributed to NDA members at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting for their review. *(That's what you're reading now, October 17, 2016.)*
- 3) A vote will be taken at the annual meeting. Amendments will pass with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of all voting members present or represented by proxy. *(This vote will take place November 19, 2016.)*

Please review the specific language changes that are outlined below. We will be voting on these amendments at the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **PROPOSED LANGUAGE UPDATES**

1. Page 38 currently states:

### **ARTICLE XI – NDA REPRESENTATIVE TO USDF ANNUAL MEETINGS**

*NDA will send one representative to the USDF Annual Meeting. NDA will pay for either one round trip airline ticket at lowest available rate or mileage paid at the current reimbursable rate established by the IRS; whichever is lower; One hotel room at the lowest occupancy rate; USDF meeting registration fees for one person; USDF Awards Banquet for one person; Allotment of \$50.00 per day food allowance.*

Proposed change:

### **ARTICLE XI – NDA REPRESENTATIVE TO USDF ANNUAL MEETINGS**

*NDA will send **at least** one representative to the USDF Annual Meeting. **For each board-approved representative**, NDA will pay for either one round trip airline ticket at lowest available rate or mileage paid at the current reimbursable rate established by the IRS; whichever is lower; One hotel room at the lowest occupancy rate; USDF meeting registration fees for one person; USDF Awards Banquet for one person; **a per-diem food allowance equal to the U.S. General Services Administration's Meals & Incidental Expenses (M&IE) rate for the city in which the Annual Meeting is held that year.***