



Half-halt



The Newsletter for the Southeastern Chapter of the Virginia Dressage Association

Volume Number 32

Issue 3

March 2020



New Year – New Lessons with Donna Gatchell

On January 11 and 12 SVDA held another clinic for it's members with Clinician, Donna Gatchell. The clinic was hosted by JR Horsemanship at Happy Valley, Suffolk VA.

Donna completed the USDF "L" Program and passed with Distinction in 2013 and is now pursuing her small "r" judging license. She is an active competitor and is currently competing multiple horses through FEI. She is a multiple GAIG and BLM champion with various horses over the last several years, most notably this past year winning 4 GAIG Finals Championships with the horse Reflection at 2nd and 3rd level open and MFS. This qualified her for the USDF Nationals where she won the open 2nd level Championship and was Reserve Champion in the 2nd level MFS and 4th in the 3rd level MFS.

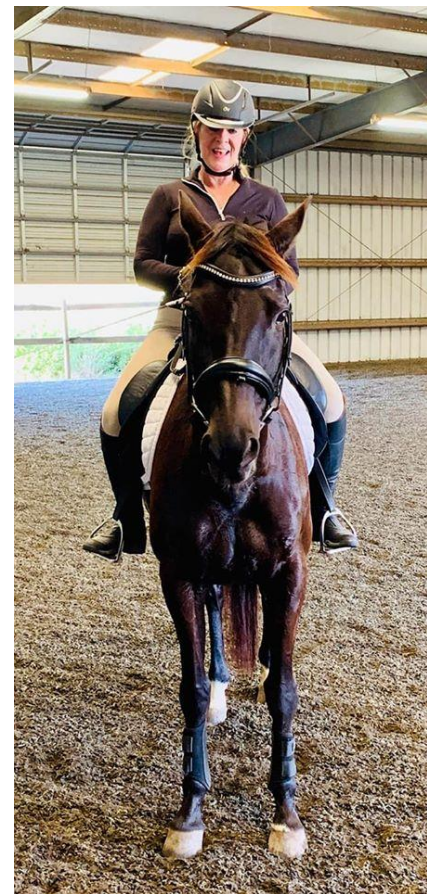
In addition, Donna has received many accolades for for her work as an instructor.

She has been named multiple times for Trainer Of The Year for the Virginia Dressage Association (VADA) as well as Trainer of the Year for VADA's Northern Virginia Chapter (VADA Nova) Her students have received year End awards at multiple levels from both VADA and VADA Nova over the past few years and she has had her students win and place at the USDF National Finals the last 3 years, along with top results at GAIGS and BLMS .

Donna brings a wealth of knowledge to her teaching and is passionate about learning. She continues to augment her knowledge through regular participation in clinics, and ongoing continuing education with USDF. Notable trainers with whom she has worked include Ulf Wiltfang, Bent Jensen, Conrad Schumacher, Jim Koford and Linda Zang and recently Martin Kupper.

Donna trains riders and horses from Introductory Level through FEI. She uses the USDF training scale as a foundation for helping horses and riders achieve their goals. She has become a sought after clinician and is passionate about helping everyone in their quest to become better riders.

Donna brought her knowledge, skills and abilities to assist our members over two days improve their skills and connection and focus on areas where riders were seeking improvement or enhancement. 19 rides were scheduled in this clinic with great feedback from each member's session with Donna. Rides varied from Intro Level to Intermediate and WDAA Basic Level. Riders included Juniors, Adult Amateur and Open. Several riders were new members of SVDA and first timers to SVDA sponsored events! So exciting!



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2020 Board of Directors

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Ljane77@hotmail.com

Vice President: Robyn Nunnally

robynnunnally@aol.com

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kathymrowse@gmail.com

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carolgonyo@gmail.com

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jsmith-1@verizon.net

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melissalynnevelyn@yahoo.com

Licensed Show: Toni Meranda

t.meranda@charter.net

Youth Chair: Charlene Jensen

Chrisandcharlene@charter.net

Scholarship: Janice Mumford

janicemumford@gmail.com

Clinics: Lora Gibson

lorahowgib@gmail.com

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Pinkyhipp@gmail.com

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penlandr@cox.net

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horsegalwhit@gmail.com

Laura Celia

VADA Rep:

Robyn Nunnally,

robynnunnally@aol.com

Sandy Toby,

omdressage@gmail.com

Beth Ripple

horsemomva@cox.net



Continued from page 1

Donna has a unique way of encouraging her students while also pushing through comfort zones to get to the next level and overcoming challenges at any level! Donna provides positive feedback with a "yes you can" attitude. I had the opportunity to ride with Donna in this clinic and truly appreciated her pleasant persistence that helps you kick it up a notch! I look forward to many more lessons with Donna as she instills confidence in the rider and trust in the horse.

Again, a huge thank you to all riders and your equine partners who participated in this clinic.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who kept the clinic moving, opened gates, parked cars, repaired tires, provided refreshments and took excellent photos! This truly was an example of teamwork that made the clinic more enjoyable for all attendees and our Clinician. We look forward to inviting Donna back in the near future.

Juniors Corner March:

There will be an official Region 1 Junior/Young Rider Team Championship show this year in Culpeper, VA on **June 27-28th, 2020**. Looking for junior/young riders to participate in the SVDA team this year. There are team awards and individual awards. You would only need your SVDA membership to participate, no need for active USEF/USDF memberships and no Horse ID will be required. JR/YR - Open to Juniors and Young Riders only; any rider is eligible until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21. There are leadline, equitation, traditional dressage, western dressage classes available for riding. There are many ways to make a team by level, age, or mixed teams. Teams are sized 3-4 riders so, if we have more than 4 riders interested, we could have more than one team. **Entries open April 1st and close May 31st.**

To participate as part of the SVDA team you must:

1. Be a current 2020 SVDA member (go to www.southeastvirginiadressage.org for information)
2. Participate in the fundraising (approximately \$300+ per rider) or pay for your self
3. Let Charlene Jensen know of your interest as soon as possible, By **March 31st**
4. Have at least 4 volunteer points for SVDA by June 1st—this will also help for your year-end award requirements (8 points total, 4 to be done prior to June 1).
5. Be able to competently ride dressage Intro tests or higher (through FEI) – or be lead line

We will need to fund raise based on how many riders we have interested as the cost of this show will be about \$300 per horse/rider combination. Some examples of fundraising last year was a 50/50 raffle and basket raffle at the championship show, concessions by Juniors at the SVDA schooling shows and paint nights.

Contact Charlene Jensen if you are interested in participating. We held a meeting February 28th to discuss the details of the show, entries and fundraising and see who is interested in attending. Additional meetings to be scheduled.

In Addition, we are looking for two SVDA members to attend as coaches for the team. I currently have 7-8 riders interested in attending so, I would like to see 2 coaches help give lessons and coach the kids starting on that Friday. SVDA will pay for hotel fees.

Thank you,

Charlene

SANDY TOBY CLINICS 2020

By Debbie Bowden

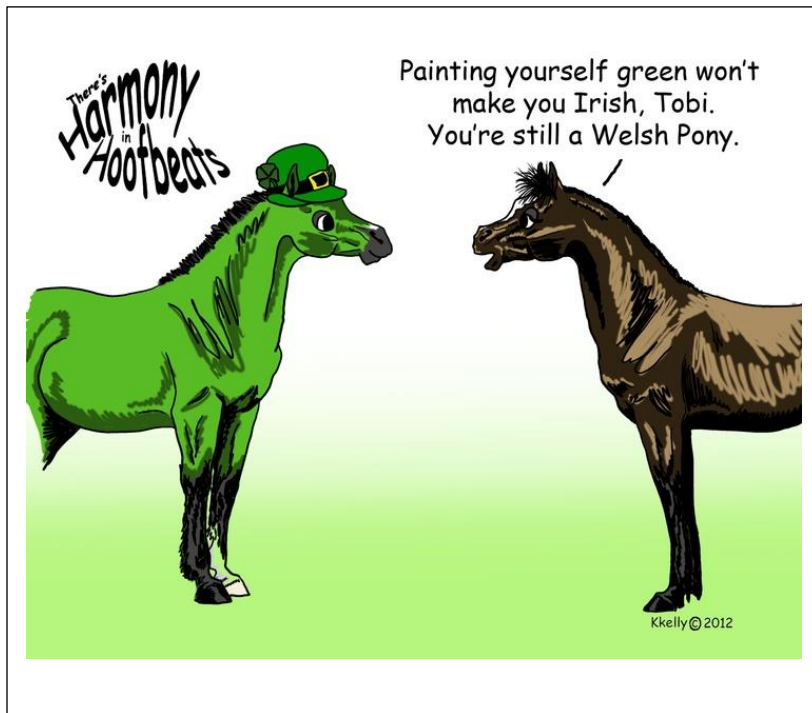
2020 started my countdown to Medicare, and my sixth season of Western Dressage. I competed in my first dressage test on my 60th birthday riding Introductory Level, and followed that season with two years of Basic and two years of Level 1. I signed up for a Sandy Toby clinic at Briar Glen Riding Academy in February with the idea that she could help me fine tune some of the elements for Level 1, Round 3.

Sandy started us off with leg yields from the quarter line and she quickly zeroed in on my calf and heel/spur placement. Using one leg to hold his shoulder and the other leg behind the girth to move the hind end over while holding with the inside rein and half halting with the outside rein certainly seemed like the ultimate in multi-tasking, but there was more. She then added half halts from the shoulder, and using my seat bones to move him over, all the while expecting that I would simultaneously breathe.

For this clinic we also worked on lope loops and turns on the forehand, and then ended with lengthening the stride in the jog. I love it when she calls out scores: "That was a 7. Post that jog and it will be an 8." I told Sandy I would like to do the second clinic the following week, space permitting, but I was scheduled to be in court all week and didn't expect to have time to practice. Her solution? "Ride it in your head." And I did.

I returned last Saturday for the second session, and Sandy let me know up front that she wanted to see me move up to Level 2, and wasn't accepting any excuses. She told me, "I'm going to be hard on you." Her answer to the age thing was, "I'll go ahead and book your room at Lake Prince." We started again with leg yielding and moved on to shoulders in, but we didn't leave the leg yield behind. Moving him over on the short sides of the arena was a great transition into the shoulders in on the long sides. I particularly enjoyed her exercise of riding him on the left shoulder, then the right, then the left again while maintaining a straight line.

We next worked on the turns on the forehand, and then on the lengthening of the jog on the long diagonals, and the lengthened lope on the long sides. I have never covered so much ground on my horse. I'm thinking those skills might be helpful on our upcoming cattle drive weekend. I love that Sandy pushes me a little past my comfort level, and encourages me to reach a little higher. It might not be at my first or second show this year, but I've decided to go for it.



Advertise with SVDA

- *All ads must be submitted as they are to appear*
 - *in the newsletter.*
 - **SIZE PER ISSUE PER YEAR**
 - *FULL PAGE per issue \$15.00, per year \$150.00*
 - *HALF PAGE per issue \$10.00, per year \$100.00*
 - *QUARTER PAGE per issue \$7.50, per year \$75.00*
 - *BUSINESS CARD per issue \$5.00, per year \$50.00*
 - *CLASSIFIEDS per issue \$5.00, per year \$50.00*
- Make checks payable to SVDA

**VIRGINIA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
AND
STAVE MILL FARM**

**PRESENTS AN AUDITOR-FRIENDLY
SYMPOSIUM**



**27 AND 28 JUNE 2020
STAVE MILL FARM
ESMONT, VA**

**DISCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL BY BUILDING A SOLID
FOUNDATION**

Exercises to help you maximize your horse's performance whether riding before a judge or the mirror.



George Williams
Youth Coach, International Dressage
Competitor and Instructor

Clinicians



Bill Warren
FEI 4* & USDF 'S' Dressage Judge,
FEI Dressage Competitor and Instructor

Check virginiadressage.com in the upcoming months for more information about the symposium, including rider and auditor information.



Rider Application

DISCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL BY BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

Exercises to help you maximize your horse's performance
whether riding before a judge or the mirror

An auditor-friendly clinic with

George Williams and Bill Warren

June 27 and 28 Stave Mill Farm, Esmont VA

(Due by April 1st)

RIDER INFORMATION

Rider Name _____

2020 VADA Member _____yes _____no Chapter _____

Address _____

Phone Home: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail _____

HORSE INFORMATION

Horse's Name _____

Breed _____ Age _____

Sex (Mare, Gelding, Stallion) _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At what level are you currently working with this horse?

Schooling _____ Showing _____

**(NOTE: THIS CLINIC IS OPEN TO HORSE/RIDER COMBINATIONS AT OR ABOVE TRAINING
LEVEL)**

How long have you and this horse been working at this level?

Please describe any particular schooling issues, areas you would like to work on and/or goals
you have for this clinic:

**PLEASE PROVIDE A LINK TO A YOUTUBE VIDEO OF YOU & YOUR HORSE THAT CLEARLY
DEMONSTRATES YOUR CURRENT ABILITIES. THE VIDEO SHOULD BE FROM THE 2019/2020
SHOW SEASON OR A SCHOOLING VIDEO FROM THE LAST 12 MONTHS, AND BE NO MORE
THAN 6 MINUTES LONG.**

FEES: *

2020 VADA Members

\$250, includes a lesson, lunch and snacks each day (stabling extra, see below)

**Non -VADA Members (PLEASE NOTE THAT VADA MEMBERS WILL HAVE PRIORITY IN FILLING
THIS CLINIC)**

\$350 includes a lesson, lunch and snacks each day (stabling extra, see below)

STABLING

Friday - Sunday \$ 75

Day Stall – (subject to availability, weekend stalls have priority) \$25 per day
Shavings - \$8/bag, must be preordered. You may also bring your own, but shavings only please!
*** 50% of the clinic fee is due with the application, with the remainder due upon acceptance**
No refunds after closing date, unless we can fill the slot, then full refund less a \$25 processing fee

STABLING REQUEST:

I want a stall:

- _____ For the full weekend - \$75(_____ arriving Friday after noon; _____ arriving Saturday
- _____ For a day only - \$25/day (day: _____)
- _____ I do not need a stall

To be considered, you must submit a complete application, to be received on or before the deadline **(April 1st)** which must include the following:

- A 50% deposit of the clinic fee (to be refunded in full if the rider is not selected)
- A link to a YouTube video of the horse and rider working at their current level (a video from a show is acceptable but not required. Video must be no more than 6 months old, with a maximum length of 6 minutes.)

Please email the link to Sheli King at amking91@verizon.net

- Negative Coggins (current through June 28, 2020)
- Documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within 6 months of the clinic
- Signed release (see below)

The remainder of the clinic fee is due upon selection.

Once the clinic fills, we will identify a number of alternates. Please indicate whether you are interested in being an alternate, and if so, the latest you could be notified and still participate:

If you are not selected to ride, do you wish to audit?

- _____ Yes, for both Sat & Sun
- _____ Yes, for 1 day (day _____)

LIABILITY RELEASE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

I understand that the Virginia Dressage Federation, Inc., and Stave Mill Farm, their staff, the clinic organizers, volunteers, clinician, facility, facility staff, hosting organization, sponsors or anyone acting on their behalf are not responsible for accidents, damage, injury or illness to the horses, riders, spectators, or any other person in connection with this clinic. By signing this form, I agree to abide by all USDF rules and fulfill all financial commitments related to this clinic.

Regardless of any agreements between the rider and the horse's owner, the rider, as the clinic participant, is ultimately responsible for paying all applicable fees to VADA and any related fees to the facility hosting the clinic.

Rider's Signature Date _____

Please return this completed form to:

Sheli King, 111 Yacht Club Way, Apt 112, Hypoluxo FL 33462

If you have any questions, please contact Sheli at amking91@verizon.net or 703—868-9062.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received _____

- Membership Verified Deposit (amt _____)
- Release Form Stabling Requested _____ yes _____ no
- Coggins (date _____) Selected _____ yes _____ no
- Notified Final payment (amt _____)



Kathy Rowse
USDF "S" Judge
USDF "L" Faculty Member
USDF Bronze, Silver & Gold Medalist
Grand Prix Rider, Instructor & Trainer
Teaching Beginners thru Grand Prix



Also available to teach at Silverleaf Farm:
Kate Knick, USDF Bronze & Silver Medalist

www.silverleaffarm.org

1468 Peppercorn Lane
Suffolk, VA 23432
757.617.9505
kathymrowse@gmail.com



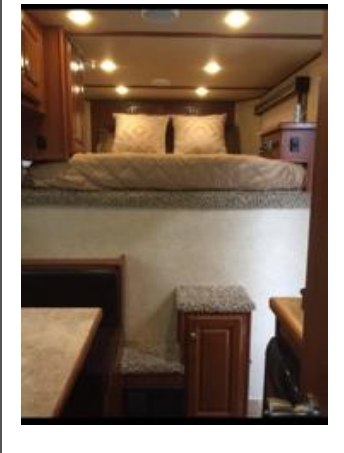
2015 Sundowner Horizon 6908 3 Horse Trailer
 Full living quarters; fully furnished with refrigerator, microwave, propane stove with 2 tanks, air conditioner, furnace, built in radio with indoor/outdoor speakers, tv hook up, power awning. Tons of storage space with rear tack stall. Well taken care of. New batteries and tires in 2019. Hauls like a dream to every show.

Asking \$35,000.

Contact Sandy Toby at

757-582-2939 or

omdressage@gmail.com



VADA MINUTES – MEETING 2-07-2020

Greencroft Club
Charlottesville, VA

Members present: Bettina Longaker, President (C'ville), Sheli King, V-President (NOVA) Alison Douglas, Secretary (Central), Jessie Ginsburg, Treasurer (NOVA), Sherri Booye (C'ville), Nancy Lowey (C'ville), Sandy Tobey (SVDA), Anne Draine (NEVADA), Jane Palmer (ShenVADA), Beth Rippel (SVDA), Robyn Nunally (SVDA), Diane Nathan (NEVADA), Angie Stanaway (NEVADA), Joanne Collins (F'burg), Alex Jeffers (Central), Bethany Larson (Central), Lynda McCann (Central), Rachel Rice (NOVA), Penny Hawes (C'ville), Heidi Jo Gayle (Central), Shaleena Arreguin (C'ville), Nancy Doody (C'ville)

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

Anne Draine made the motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Sherri seconded and the Board approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report- Jessie reported balances of \$115K which doesn't include most of the cost of the banquet.

2020 Chapter Challenge- The board would like to thank Meredith for her work as committee chair. We will need to find a new chair for 2021. Sandy Toby and Robyn Nunnally agreed to be co-chairs for us. Tina will look into making the 2020 show a USDF schooling show.

DAL- As there aren't enough breed shows to support it, there will no longer be a Bred In VA breed show award. We will continue with the SHAC TOC as that seemed to work well last year. Jessie brought up that the manager and secretary were being paid a flat fee and not per day. Sandy Toby made the motion to change the payment to day rates of \$500 per day. Anne Draine seconded, and the board approved with Tina abstaining.

DAL/GAIG- Nancy Doody will handle awards for both shows and Rachel Rice will be the volunteer coordinator for both shows.

Membership and volunteering - Tina brought up the topic of how we get our current members more invested and how do we attract younger people to join and participate. Jessie brought up the idea of VADA bucks- similar to what NOVA does- as members volunteer, they earn dollars that can be put towards any VADA event EXCEPT licensed shows- so that's the banquet, chapter challenge, clinics, etc. Anne Draine made the motion and Jessie seconded it that members can earn \$10 in VADA bucks for a full day of volunteering and \$5 for half a day. The motion passed unanimously. The board will continue to have more detailed discussions regarding the marketing of awards and how we can get chapters to push their members to volunteer for VADA events.

2020 Williams-Warren Clinic- The clinic will be held June 27th & 28th. Sheli is finalizing the budget. She's also working on applying for grants to help subsidize the cost so that we can charge minimal costs to riders and a modest audit fee. Sheli is also looking for sponsors so please put the word out in your chapters. Contact Sheli if you're interested in volunteering as well.

USDF Schooling Show Awards Program- Tina passed out the form for VADA reimbursement and the USDF rules and dat.file requirements (for submitting the results electronically to USDF). Chapters should submit their reimbursement requests directly to Tina.

Election of officers- As there were no members interested in running for any of the offices, the present slate was voted on for re-election with current officers abstaining. The officers will remain the same.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday March 11th as a teleconference at 8 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Douglas

SVDA 2020 Calendar

Schooling Show Schedule

Date	Location	Judge	Open	Close
03/22/20	Epps Farm - Suffolk	Janice Mumford "L"	02/17/20	03/09/20
04/19/20	West Neck, VaBch -	Robyn Nunnally "L"	03/23/20	04/06/20
05/17/20	River Birch, Cortland	Margaret Little "r"	04/20/20	05/04/20
06/07/20	Peace Haven, Smithfield	AnnMari Ingersoll"L"	05/11/20	05/25/20
06/21/20	SVDA Schooling Show Make up show			
07/05/20	TBA	TBA	06/08/20	06/22/20
07/19/20	Amazing Grace- Carrollton	Donna Gatchell"L"	06/22/20	07/06/20
08/23/20	SeaHorse Farm – Suffolk	Sandy Toby"L"	07/27/20	08/10/20
09/20/20	Bridlewood –Suffolk	TBA	08/31/20	09/14/20
09/27/20	SVDA Schooling Show Make up show			
10/18/20	SVDA Championship Show Wakefield 4H Center	Carol Bishop @'C' TBA@'B'	09/21/20	10/05/20

Sanctioned schooling shows

Wakefield Airfield 4-H Center

Crescent Bay Pony club held at Epps Farm Supply

Deep Creek Stables March 1 Judge Sandy Toby

Licensed Show 2020

March 28/29 – March Magic, Williamston

- 4/11.12 Williamston Spring Dressage, Williamston NC
- 5/1.2.3 Dressage at the Meadow, Doswell, VA
- 5/23.24 Isabel F. DeSzinay Memorial, Culpeper, VA
- 6/13.14 VA. Summer Dressage , Culpeper,VA
- 7/11.12.13 Dressage @ Lexington - VADA





Sandy Toby
 USDF Silver/Bronze
 Medalist
 "L" Graduate W/
 Distinction
 omdressage@gmail.com
 1752 White Marsh Rd,
 Suffolk, VA

757-582-2939

**YOU CAN GET A SVDA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP OR
RECEIVE FOUNDATION FUNDING!!!!!!**

Do you have a strong volunteer background with SVDA (minimum of 20 hours of volunteerism that benefited SVDA? Have you been a member for 2 years and participated in a SVDA fundraising project?

Apply for a scholarship if all the answers are yes!!! Deadline to submit is

April 1st every year. See the SVDA Website for applications under

the scholarship link at www.southeastvirginiadressage.org.

Foundation funding is based on financial need and certain requirements are met such as membership and volunteerism.

Any questions email Janice Mumford at janicemumford@gmail.com

ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST BELOW

Past Scholarship Winners

2019-Karen Barnard, Debbie Bowden, Joanne Smith and Dahlia Jensen
2018- Cookie Parsons, Lora Gibson
2017- Julie Shilling & Ann Jacobson
2016-Wendy Murray, Caitlin Couch, & Lyndy Soboleski
2015-Nancy Pettet, Anna Schriebl, Shari Cutchins, & Toni Meranda
2014-Louise Murray, Sarah Miller, Sandy Johnson, & Mary Winchell
2013-Katie Lang
2012-Melissa Mahoney & Anna Schriebl
2011-Jennifer Rombs & Sandy Johnson
2010-Sarah Miller & Robyn Nunnally
2009-Kya Enderson & Mary Winchell
2008-Sarah Miller & Anna Stovall
2007-Janice Mumford & Sandy Johnson
2006-Wendy Murray & Kasey Blanton
2005-Ashley Swindell

Past Foundation Fund Winners

2015-Robyn Nunnally
2014-Jessica Zoskey & Katie Jenkins
2013-Sandy Toby
2012-Kathy Rowse

SCHOOLING SHOW VOLUNTEER POSITIONS – 2020

Date: March 22, 2020

Entries Open: 02/24/2020

Entries Close: 03/09/2020

Location: Epps Farm Supply, 2170 Joshua Ln, Suffolk, VA 23434

Entry Secretary: Katherine Owens; 17339 Days Point Road, Smithfield, VA 23430; 757.356.9703; kathapine1977@yahoo.com

Ring Transportation to: MUST contact Mike Rowse (621.6769) prior to picking up items listed below:

- Stephanie Walker

Items to be picked up and delivered prior to 3:00 pm Saturday:

- 4 tables, 4 chairs, 2 tents

Ring Set up: Saturday prior to the show @ 3:00 pm

- Nancy Pettet
- Stephanie Walker
- Katherine Gardner
-

Lunches & snacks: Janice Mumford

Show Secretary AM: Katie and Ava Miller

Show Secretary PM: Christine Metz

Scribe AM: Mary Barczak

Scribe PM: Susan Forester

Ring Steward AM: Christine Metz

Ring Steward PM: Mary Barczak

Runner AM/PM: Nancy Slack

Ring Take Down:

- Susan Forester
- Mary Barczak
- Nancy Slack
- Christine Metz (pack up show boxes)
- Toni Meranda (supervise)

Ring Transportation from: Emma Jensen

MUST contact Mike Rowse (621.6769) prior to returning items listed below

- 4 tables, 4 chairs, 2 tents, 2 SVDA show boxes

Items to be returned:

- 4 tables, 4 chairs, 2 tents, 2 SVDA show boxes

SVDA Rep: AM/PM: Toni Meranda

SCHOOLING SHOW VOLUNTEER POSITIONS – 2020

Date: April 19, 2020

Entries Open: 03/23/2020

Entries Close: 04/06/2020

Location: West Neck Creek Equestrian Center, 1437 Princess Anne Road, VA Beach, VA 23456

Entry Secretary: Eileen Darland, 720 School House Road, Chesapeake, VA 23322; 757.535.9746; eileenmdarland@gmail.com

Ring Transportation to: Must contact Mike Rowse (621.6769) prior to picking up items shown below:

•

Items needed to be picked up and delivered prior to 4:00 pm Saturday:

•

Ring Set up: Saturday prior to the show @ 4:00 pm

- Susan Forester
-
-
-

Lunches & snacks: Robyn Nunnally

Show Secretary AM:

Show Secretary PM:

Scribe AM:

Scribe PM: Susan Forester

Ring Steward A.M.:

Ring Steward P.M.:

Runner A.M.:

Runner P. M.:

Ring Take Down: TIE THE CHAIN END TO THE BUCKET!!

Remove tapes from bucket before putting chain in!

- Susan Forester
-
-
-

Ring Transportation from: Must contact Mike Rowse (621.6769) prior to returning items shown below:

•

Items needed to be returned:

•

SVDA Rep:

a.m. –

p.m. –

3 Things you (probably) didn't know about beet pulp Although the popularity of this fibrous feedstuff continues to grow, misconceptions about it remain.

EQUUS UPDATED: JUL 25, 2019, ORIGINAL: NOV 2, 2017

Chances are you're pretty familiar with beet pulp. Most of us have scooped and soaked our fair share of this sugar-industry-byproduct-turned-equine-feed. The remains of sugar beets used in the manufacture of sugar, beet pulp is high in digestible fiber and a good source of "safe" structural carbohydrate-based calories, making it a popular horse feed throughout the country and around the world. Straight from the bag, beet pulp is dried and shredded---almost resembling tobacco---or pressed into solid pellets. Soak either form in water for about a half-hour, and you'll have a soft, soggy mash.

Yet as simple and easy as beet pulp is to feed, it has long been the subject of myths and misunderstandings in the horse world. Some of these misconceptions are harmless, but others could lead owners to needlessly rule out beet pulp as part of a horse's diet or, conversely, rely on it too heavily and for the wrong reasons.

To make sure that doesn't happen at your barn, we've compiled a list of three important facts about beet pulp. Read through them so you can make sure your horse gets the greatest benefit from this versatile feed.

Fact 1: Beet pulp provides a type of fiber that offers unique nutritional advantages.

"The main role of beet pulp in a horse's diet is fiber, just as with hay," says Pennsylvania State University equine nutritionist Burt Staniar, PhD. "But the beet pulp fiber is not the same as the fiber in hay. It's much more easily digested, so it's processed faster. We don't think of fiber as providing much energy---and in the human diet it doesn't---but in horses it's a significant source of energy. Because the fiber in beet pulp is digested quickly, the energy and the calories it provides are available to a horse much faster than those that would come from hay."

This, says Staniar, makes beet pulp a useful source of energy for horses who need a boost for athletic efforts or to support other functions, such as lactation. "It's going to have more benefit for [equine athletes or broodmares] than, say, an easy-keeper gelding who spends most of his day in the field," he says. "And in cases where horses need more calories, adding beet pulp to a diet may be a better option than adding more hay because of the difference in fiber type."

For the same reasons, beet pulp is often a good choice for older horses who have trouble chewing or digesting hay. "It can be very beneficial for older horses whose teeth or digestive tracts can't handle other types of fiber," says Coverdale. "In fact, many of the senior feeds that are formulated as 'complete feed'---meaning they include fiber---are beet pulp based."

Beet pulp fiber provides another advantage: promoting healthy gut flora. "A horse extracts energy from fiber via fermentation in the hind gut," says Staniar. "That fermentation is done by bacteria, and different types of bacteria ferment at different rates." A gut that is accustomed to only slow-digesting forage may be overpopulated with that type of bacteria, an imbalance that can lead to digestive upset.

"You want to support all those microbial populations," says Staniar. "So when your horse has to make a transition in diet or location, he is going to be better able to adapt digestively. A little bit of beet pulp in every diet can help keep the population of fiber-digesting bacteria in the gut balanced so those changes won't be as disruptive."

Fact 2: Beet pulp contains very little sugar.

"Plain beet pulp is very, very low in sugar; it isn't sweet at all," says Coverdale. "If you pop some in your mouth expecting it to be, you're going to be disappointed. It's pretty boring and tasteless."

In part, beet pulp's unearned reputation as a high-sugar feed comes from its origins. "The name 'sugar beet pulp' is very misleading," says Staniar. "Remember that this is a byproduct of the sugar industry. By the time it makes it to the feed store, all the sugar has been extracted. That's what the sugar industry wants, and they just pass along the rest to us."

In fact, molasses is often added to beet pulp to make it more palatable to horses. But even then, the amount of sugar isn't enough to worry about unless your horse has a specific sensitivity to sugars. "There's only about 3 percent molasses in those formulations," says Wagner, "which doesn't make a huge difference in terms of energy content, but it does make it tastier. If you have a horse with a history of insulin resistance or metabolic issues, you'll want to eliminate the molasses because you're cutting back on all sugars. And horses with hyperkalemic periodic paralysis [HYPP] need to avoid molasses for other reasons [see "For HYPP Horses, Hold the Molasses," page 48]. But if your horse doesn't have any of those issues, there's not enough molasses in the sweetened beet pulp to trigger anything."

If sugar or molasses in your horse's diet is a concern, look for "plain" beet pulp, which most feed companies sell in addition to formulations with molasses added. Just check the label. But even if you can't find unsweetened beet pulp, there's still a fix: "If you soak, then squeeze beet pulp and drain off the water, you'll remove most of the molasses," says Staniar. "That's an easy way to reduce the sugar content if you can't find plain beet pulp."

Fact 3: Beet pulp can help you stretch your hay supply.

Sometimes, despite your best efforts, you may find your hay supply running low, which is obviously a cause for concern. Without a source of roughage, a horse's digestive system can't function properly. That's where beet pulp comes in: It can take the place of hay---at least partially---helping you stretch your supply until you can restock.

"In this area of the country, we go through a drought every so often, and people get very interested in alternative sources of fiber and roughage," says Coverdale. "Beet pulp is a good option." The conversion rate is straightforward---for every pound of forage you take out of the diet, add in a pound of beet pulp. Start this when you know your hay supply might be

getting low and you may be able to make it last long enough until you can refill the hay shed. There is a limit to how much substitution you can safely do, however.

"I wouldn't recommend replacing all the hay in your horse's diet with beet pulp," says Coverdale. "Although the fiber content is similar, the vitamin and mineral content of beet pulp is very different than that of hay. When you rely on it too much, you can create some significant nutritional imbalances in a horse's diet."

Beet pulp, for instance is low in phosphorus compared to its calcium content. "The calcium/phosphorus ratio is about 10 to 1, which in small amounts isn't a problem for a mature horse," says Coverdale. "But in large amounts or in a growing horse or a lactating mare, that could cause issues with bone development." To prevent such imbalances, she says, the general limit for feeding beet pulp is no more than 10 percent of a horse's diet by weight, which works out to no more than two to three pounds a day for an average-size horse."

Wagner cautions against trying to "eyeball" the correct amount of beet pulp to feed a horse. "You've got to remember it's 10 percent by its dry, unsoaked weight," she says. "You have to weigh the feed, not just consider scoop size. Beet pulp is light and fluffy. A pound of beet pulp is going to look like a lot more than a pound of alfalfa pellets, for instance." Wagner adds that she keeps a fish scale in her feed room so she can hang a bucket to weigh out rations quickly and accurately.

Coverdale adds that the "scratch factor" of beet pulp may not be high enough to safely replace all the hay in a horse's diet. "You need to take into account the physical attributes of long-stem roughage," she says---"the fact that a horse has to chew it and that it provides bulk in the gut. We know this is all-important in ruminant digestion. We need more research into that in horses, but it stands to reason it would be."

Of course, says Coverdale, there are always exceptions. "In many older horses, particularly those with dental problems, hay isn't even an option any more," she says. "In those cases, the rules go out the window and you do whatever you can. Beet pulp might be the only source of fiber an older horse can get. In those cases, I'd recommend a senior feed containing beet pulp that's designed to be a 'complete' feed and replace hay. The nutritionists at those companies will have created a balanced diet, so you don't need to worry about vitamin and mineral deficits. Trying to come up with your own formulation by mixing beet pulp with regular feeds can be very difficult and is unnecessary these days; the calculations have already been done for you with a commercial feed."

If all this information has you thinking that you want to add beet pulp to your horse's diet, check to make sure it isn't there already. "Beet pulp is already in a ton of commercial grain mixes," says Staniar. "It's gotten increasingly popular as we've realized its nutritional benefits, and it shows up in all sort of places."

Specialty feeds are particularly reliant on beet pulp. "Beet pulp is a major component of the high-fiber, low-sugar feeds that are so popular right now," says Wagner. "It's really the perfect ingredient for those---a good source of 'cool' energy. And if you look at senior feeds, you'll see it's a primary ingredient; that's the reason those feeds soak up water so well. I think there are plenty of people out there who don't realize they are already feeding beet pulp. And there are probably people thinking they'd never feed beet pulp, for whatever reason, but their horses are already thriving on it."

This article first appeared in EQUUS issue #449, February 2015.

**BY
EQUUS**

2020 Volunteers

	<u>Totals</u>
Beth Anderson	4
Kim Bliefernich	2
Paul Bliefernich	2
Debbie Bowden	8
Krista Bryant	8
Linda Cannon	5
Laura Celia	13
Wendy Corrice	8
Evelyn Eidem	8
Melissa Evelyn	8
Barbara Felton	7
Beth Galbraith	5
Lora Gibson	8
Carol Gongo	8
Ed Hipp	3
Pinky Hipp	8
Aiden Hughes	4
Ben Hughes	9
Hope Hughes	4
Charlene Jensen	11
Dahlia Jensen	3

Whitney Kelso	8
Maureen Lawrence	2
Christine Metz	7
Toni Meranda	8
Sarah Miller	12
Tammy Moore	12
Janice Mumford	8
Robyn Nunnally	16
Maria Oshea	2
Lorna Parsons	8
Ray Penland	8
Beth Rippel	8
Kathy Rowse	16
Shannon Schell	2
Joanne Smith	14
Jessica Stallings	16
Sandy Toby	8
Stephanie Walker	3

2020 calendar

3/1	
3/7.8	
3/14.15	
3/22	SVDA Schooling Show - Epps Farm
3/28.29	March Magic , Williamston NC
4/4.5	
4/11.12	Raleigh Spring Dressage , Raleigh, NC (Was Williamston Spring Dressage)
4/19	SVDA Schooling Show West Neck, VaBch
4/25.26	
5/1.2.3	Dressage at the Meadow I & II , Doswell, VA
5/9.10	
5/17	SVDA Schooling Show - River Birch, Cortland
5/23.24	Isabel F. DeSzinay Memorial , Culpeper, VA
5/30.31	Raleigh Capital Classic , Raleigh, NC
6/6.7	SVDA Schooling Show – Peace Haven, Smithfield, VA
6/13.14	VA. Summer Dressage , Culpeper,VA
6/20.21	SVDA Schooling Show Make up show
6/27.28	
7/5	SVDA Schooling Show TBA – Suffolk
7/10.11.12	Dressage @ Lexington - VADA
7/19	SVDA Schooling Show Amazing Grace Carrollton
7/25.26	Raleigh Summer I & II , Raleigh NC
8/1.2	
8/9	VADA – CH @ Culpeper, VA - SVDA Schooling Show
8/15.16	
8/22.23	SVDA Schooling Show Seahorse , Suffolk
8/29.30	NCDCTA Labor of Love I & II , Raleigh NC
9/5.6	
9/12.13	Roemont , Fredricksburg
9/20	SVDA Schooling Show Bridlewood –Suffolk
9/26.27	SVDA Schooling Show Make up show
10/3.4	
10/8.9.10.11	GAGs Lexington, VA
10/18	SVDA Championship Show Wakefield 4H Center
10/24.25	CBLM Williamston, NC
11/1	SVDA General Membership Meeting
11/7.8	
11/14.15	
11/21.22	
11/28.29	

