



Half-halt



The Newsletter for the Southeastern Chapter of the Virginia Dressage Association
Volume Number 32 Issue Number 5 May 2020



**I'M GOING TO
THE STORE.
YOU WANT
ANYTHING?**



2020 Board of Directors

President: Cookie Parsons

Ljane77@hotmail.com

Vice President: Robyn Nunnally

robynnunnally@aol.com

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kathymrowse@gmail.com

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evelyneidem@yahoo.com

Membership: Carol Gonyo (manual)

carolgonyo@gmail.com

Awards: Joanne Smith

jsmith-1@Verizon.net

Schooling Show: Melissa Evelyn

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

Webmaster: Wendy Murray

wendylanem@gmail.com

Newsletter: Sarah Miller

ttcorporation@aol.com

Members at Large:

Pinky Hipp (help schooling show if needed)

Pinkyhipp@gmail.com

Ray Penland (Coggins)

penlandr@cox.net

Whitney Kelso (Manual)

horsegalwhit@gmail.com

Laura Celia

VADA Rep:

Robyn Nunnally,

robynnunnally@aol.com

Sandy Toby,

omdressage@gmail.com

Beth Ripple

horsemomva@cox.net





Southeast Virginia Dressage Association
presents

Socially Distant Virtual Schooling Show Series

Videotape your ride and compete from home!

Show #1

Submissions accepted April 1 through April 15

Judge: Janice Mumford, L Grad and USEF WD "R"

Show #2

Submissions accepted April 29 through May 13

Judge: Robyn Nunnally, L Grad and USEF WD "R"

Show #3

Submissions accepted May 27 through June 10

Judge: Margaret Little, USEF "r"

Riders have two registration options:

- Submit a videotaped test as part of a "class," in which tests are judged and ribbons are awarded.
- Submit a videotaped test as a "training ride," in which tests are judged and include in-depth feedback with training tips and suggestions for improving future tests (no ribbons).

Cost is \$20 per videotaped ride.

No SVDA vouchers or coupons are accepted for these shows.

Scores do not count toward championship qualifications or year-end awards. However...

High-point score for show #1 earns a \$25 SmartPak gift card!

Series-end winners earn prizes at every level!

Must participate in at least two shows to qualify for series awards.

Contact Melissa Evelyn at melissalynnevelyn@yahoo.com or 919-740-2320 for entry form.

**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.



The Virginia Dressage Association & Stave Mill Farm are excited to announce an auditor-friendly symposium with George Williams and Bill Warren. The symposium, 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) will be at Stave Mill Farm in Esmont VA on June 27th & 28th.

We will have 8 demonstration riders each day. In addition, we will have several time periods set aside each day so that the clinicians can answer questions from the auditors. We are also planning on holding additional, unmounted educational activities over the course of the symposium. These are still being developed but one is likely to be a "yoga for riders" session focusing on stretches to enhance a rider's flexibility, with the second session focusing on a presentation from a vet on a topic of general interest to the entire audience.

While there are many educational opportunities in Virginia, most are geared to riders and not auditors. In addition, clinics with "big-name trainers" are generally quite expensive. This symposium is targeted to both riders and auditors, with not just one but two top-notch clinicians, who both complement each other and bring different perspectives to their instruction. Both are FEI riders, both train riders at all levels, one is a National Level Coach and the other an FEI Judge. Together we believe they will be a dynamic duo and will provide valuable instruction to both riders and auditors.

This symposium will provide a meaningful educational opportunity to all our members whatever their level, at a very moderate price. One unique aspect of this symposium is that it is geared to both riders who show and those who simply want to advance their horse's training, even if they have no interest in competing. It is designed to help all horses, riders and auditors reach their full potential, even if they are not mounted on the biggest, fanciest mover.

Between the two of them, our clinicians wear every possible hat imaginable – trainer, FEI and international level competitor, National Level Coach and FEI judge. Working as a team, they will bring a wide range of perspectives to the symposium, being able to speak to the attendees as a rider, trainer, coach and judge, which will result in a very rich learning experience.

George Williams is a US National Coach, international competitor, and highly sought-after instructor. A prominent figure in international dressage competition, George's career highlights with Chuck and Joann Smith's grand prix mare, Rocher include an unprecedented three-time Dressage at Devon Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle winner and United States Dressage Federation Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle Horse of the Year.

George has been a serious student of dressage since 1973 when at 18 years old he traveled to Germany to study at the Reitinstitut von Neindorff where he earned his German Bronze Rider Medal. He then became a resident trainer and rider alongside Karl Mikolka at Tempel Farms in Wadsworth, Illinois. After 20 years, he left to join Gypsy Woods Farm and trained in Germany with the former US Dressage team coach and Olympic gold medalist, Klaus Balkenhol.

In 2015 he was named to the position of Dressage National Youth Coach by the United States Equestrian Federation.

William Warren is an FEI 4* and USEF "S" Judge, FEI Competitor and instructor. Bill currently trains and teaches out of Elmwood Equestrian Center in Mansfield, MA where he and Bill McMullin operate Warren-McMullin Dressage. As a USEF 'S', FEI 4* Judge, and USDF Gold Medalist, Bill judges and teaches clinics all over the United States. He also maintains an active show schedule and has accumulated many regional and national awards.

Rider applications are being accepted until April 1st and can be found at <http://www.virginiadressage.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VADA-2020-Symposium-rider-application42166.pdf>

Auditor registration will be available after April 1 and the sign-up form will be posted at virginiadressage.org. Auditing will be \$25 a day for VADA Members (\$40 for non-members) and will include all unmounted educational sessions, lunch, snacks and drinks.

My Wellington Boot Camp Experience

By Melissa Jamison

With horses we all have moments where the stars align, the sun peeks through and we feel extremely lucky! Sometimes our horse spooks at a dog darting out from behind a tree, but comes to a full stop as our beating hearts slow in relief! Or a mysterious lameness resolves itself with an abscess! As we all nod our heads in this very special unit, we all are also linked by shared experiences with the other side of that luck spectrum. My trip to Wellington was a bit of the whole scale...

My family and I booked a house for two weeks back in October. I found two stalls for two weeks and my job was willing to let me be gone for 17 days. My family got tickets to fly from Seattle to spend time together. I found someone to ride with that I had admired for a long time. I got the truck and trailer ready. You guys see the pattern; plan, spend money, look at pictures in December of palm trees and dressage arenas to lessen the sting of the cash outflow. With the Corona virus fears, I call my boss one last time to ask if I can still go—and she says “absolutely!”. So I leave the morning of the 12th of March and after spending a night in Florence, SC, we arrived in Wellington, FL at 9pm on the 13th of March. The barn is a glorious Mid-Century Modern lofted ceiling and euro stall masterpiece and the horses quickly settle in. My 24-year old horse is a little bit tied up from the journey, so I stuff him with horse girl pharmacy tools, Robaxine, electrolytes, BCMAAs and banamine. Leggy, my new horse, traveled marvelously. They get Saturday off and I hand graze them looking enviously at the hibiscus flowers and coconuts growing on the property. My family decides not to fly in as the reality of Corona hits, so I have this house to myself and nothing to do but ride two horses in paradise for the next two weeks. Pinch me!

On Sunday I get to meet my trainer for the first time in person. Lehua Custer is from Hawaii originally and left when she was 17. Ironically, while there in Wellington, I got to watch her first lesson with Ali Brock. They realized that they both had left Hawaii in the same year at the same age. Talk about goosebumps! She rode with Hilda Gurney for ten years, and I had watched some of her videos and read articles about her. She seemed knowledgeable, cheerful, fair to horse and rider with a mixed disposition of surfer cool and German precision. I rode both horses with her and was a mess of nerves...the first ride is always hard! We chatted about training fundamentals, and she invited me to go meet her recently approved stallion Fortunado H2O “Tuna” at a White Fences show that same day.

The week flew by. Chatter about Corona intensified, and I knew I was going to have to come home early because my job called me back. So I put my big girl breeches on and maybe shed a tear or two into a glass of wine, but then I was determined to make the most of what I had left. I treasured my two rides a day. Lehua has an eagle eye, with such a desire to help the rider understand the concept that we frequently went over our allotted time each ride. We talked strategies of the half pass, how to work through tension and losing the cadence in the walk, and why riding is just so hard sometimes. I got to ride through some big spooks (dead palm tree fronds on the tree are not fun in the wind) and hear her tell me “Ride it girl!” She built my confidence up and gave me tools to take home. She helped me understand being able to leg yield and straighten my horse in the canter across the diagonal to get a clean change. I also got to watch Lehua ride her GP horse FJ Ramzes in a simple snaffle, no spurs or whips, performing all the elements. Everything about riding with her is fun.



Leggy and I doing fancy trot!



Sunset in Wellington



Yes I took a

picture of a sign! And I'm not ashamed!



Oran getting rid of his winter coat!

One of my favorite quotes from the week is “as training intensifies, we as riders have to give the horse hope.” When my horse got nervous and gave some passage steps, she encouraged me to praise him. When my clumsy attempt to keep a counter canter ended with a crisp change, she told me to never discipline for a change, even when not asked for—instead think through where clarity in my body had been lost.

The journey back was interesting! Leggy got an injury so I elected to leave him there under the watchful eye of Lehua (thanks Mom and Dad for offering to help!) and Kate Shoemaker, a FEI Paradressage rider, Olympic hopeful and also vet extraordinaire. I had truck trouble and had the truck in the shop before I left, making a straight 18 hour drive back because my job wanted me to return in a flash. I was quite leery about making the trip back within a week for my 24-year old's sake. He's an incredible horse but the trip down had been hard on him. Dr. Shoemaker put a catheter in and I learned how to change fluid bags so he traveled fully hydrated and arrived in amazing condition with no concerns except for his excitement to see his donkey companion again.

Oh it was a journey...and what was to be a dressage bootcamp for me, turned into a macro lesson on life and relationships. My family supported keeping Leggy in Wellington for the next couple months, my husband helped get me back in one piece, and I hope to keep riding with Lehua for the long term. I plan to go back to Wellington at some point—this time with less drama.

SILVERLEAF MESSAGE



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

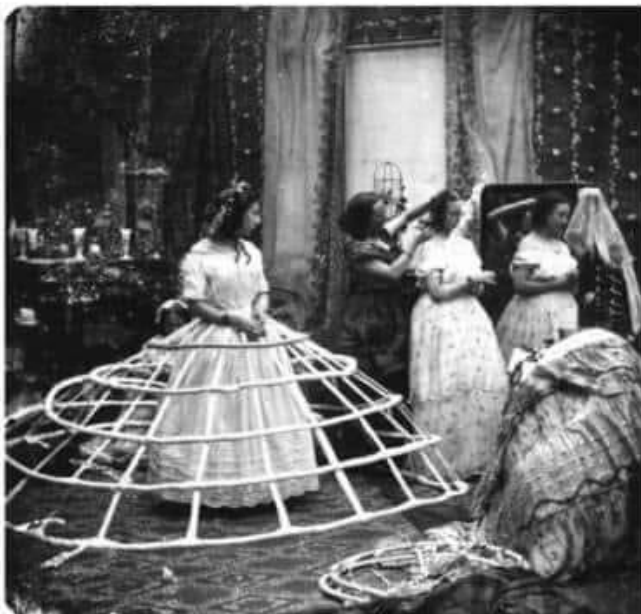


Also available to teach at Silverleaf Farm:
Kate Knick, USDF Bronze & Silver Medalist

www.silverleaffarm.org

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

For social distancing reasons I will henceforth be wearing hoop skirts



SVDA 2020 Calendar

Schooling Show Schedule

Date	Location	Judge	Open	Close
06/21/20	Epps Fram, Suffolk	TBA		
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	Wanda Escobar	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

May 16, 2020
Sept. 19, 2020
Oct. 17, 2020

Airfield Western Dressage
Airfield 4-H Center, Wakefield, VA
POC: Marie Taylor
dabneymill@aol.com
804-314-5216

Crescent Bay Pony club held at Northwest River park

May 16, 2020
May 31, 2020
June 28, 2020
Oct. 4, 2020

Deep Creek Stables

Licensed Show 2020

7/11.12.13 Dressage @ Lexington - VADA
7/25.26 Raleigh Summer I & II, Raleigh NC
8/9 VADA – CH @ Culpeper, VA



Old Mill Dressage
Suffolk, VA

757-582-2939



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



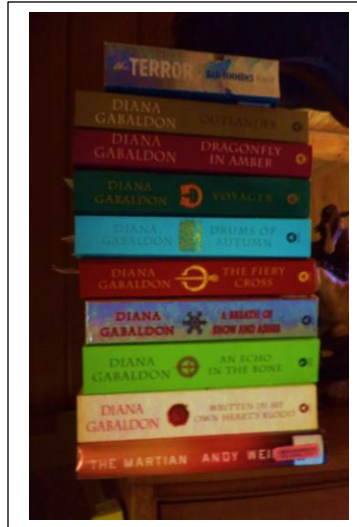
2020 Volunteers

	<u>Totals</u>
Beth Anderson	4
Mary Barczak	4
Karen Barnard	4
Kim Bliefernich	2
Paul Bliefernich	2
Debbie Bowden	8
Krista Bryant	8
Linda Cannon	5
Laura Celia	13
Wendy Corrice	8
Eileen Darland	8
Evelyn Eidem	8
Melissa Evelyn	18
Barbara Felton	7
Susan Forester	7
Beth Galbraith	5
Katherine Gardner	2
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
Emma Jensen	1
Whitney Kelso	8
Maureen Lawrence	2
Christine Metz	11
Toni Meranda	13
Ava Miller	2
Katie Miller	2
Sarah Miller	12
Tammy Moore	12
Janice Mumford	13
Robyn Nunnally	21
Maria Oshea	2
Katy Owens	8
Lorna Parsons	8
Ray Penland	8
Nancy Pettet	2
Beth Rippel	8
Kathy Rowse	16
Shannon Schell	2
Nancy Slack	4
Joanne Smith	14
Jessica Stallings	16
Deb Sweetman	4
Sandy Toby	8
Stephanie Walker	6

What are you do during the Coronavirus Shut Down?

Did you read some good books?



Did you do some baking?



Have you mowed your pastures nine times?



Did you clean your house,



or barn?

Or have you finally gotten around to that long put off project?



Let me know how you spent your time and I'll share it with other SVDA members, maybe we can all have a good laugh. We need it.