



Transitions

Issue XXIII

February / March 2012

CTDA Calendar

- * Schooling Show at Grey-stone on March 24
- * Tennessean on April 14-15
- * Recognized Show at Old Hillsboro Manor on June 23
- * Ole South on August 24-26

Next Business

Meeting

Location TBD

Monday, March 12

6:30 pm

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Send Us Your News

Contact *Transitions* Editor Mimi Bliss with news about you and your horses.

(615) 297-3656
mimi@mimibliss.com

A Show for Every Horse and Rider — By Mimi Bliss



CTDA has revamped the 2012 schedule of recognized dressage shows, including the addition of a one-day rated show in June and moving-up the state dressage championships to August.

The Tennessean Express and Tennessean dressage shows are scheduled for Saturday, April 14, and Sunday, April 15, providing a “two-fer” with two shows in two days. There will be no Friday classes because of low participation on Fridays in the past.

A one-day recognized dressage show is being introduced in June. The June Classic is scheduled for Saturday, June 23, at Old Hillsboro Manor in Franklin. Ida Anderson (S) is judge.

“The June show offers a relaxed atmosphere with the opportunity to earn scores that are recognized by USDF (United States Dressage Federation),” said Chris Saia, CTDA president. “Competitors can use their scores to qualify for USDF regional shows and awards.” *Continued on Page 2*

Celebrate 2011, Prepare for 2012 — By Mimi Bliss

CTDA Year-End Awards recognize members for achievements in dressage and within CTDA.

Turn the page to learn about our honorees, who include children, juniors, adult amateurs and professionals. Our winners competed at levels from Introductory through FEI Grand Prix.

We encourage you to review the 2012 show schedule and award guidelines at tndressage.com, so you can prepare for 2012 Year-End Awards.

Changes in 2012 include two award categories instead of three. Category One is USDF-recognized shows, including at least one show sanctioned by CTDA, and Category Two is CTDA-sanctioned schooling shows. Remember, you must be a CTDA member at the time scores are earned to be eligible.



Brandie Heidenway & Delilah

Letter from the President



Chris Saia and Wynona

It's the time of year when we look forward to Spring, with the longer days and better weather that allow us to enjoy our horses and the great sport of dressage.

I encourage you to join us as a competitor or volunteer at a CTDA dressage show in 2012. Our shows are a wonderful opportunity to meet your fellow dressage riders, share ideas and build friendships. We depend on volunteers to offer high-quality dressage shows in Middle Tennessee. Volunteer coordinator Beth Huff (bethchuff@comcast.net) would love to hear from you!

If you are not a member of CTDA, I encourage you to join. As a CTDA member, you automatically become a group member of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF). USDF is the only national membership organization dedicated to dressage. Members receive publications, access to online dressage education tools at usdf.org, discounts to CTDA schooling shows and much more. For information about membership, contact CTDA membership chair and dressage trainer Jessica

Roberson Wright at 615-414-4840 or jrwright09@att.net.

Feel free to contact me at cnsaia@bellsouth.net or 615-804-2348. I hope to see you this Spring!

Sincerely, Chris Saia

CTDA Leadership

CTDA Officers

President - Chris Saia

Vice President - Michael Foster

Treasurer - Luanne Wagner

Secretary - Beth Huff

CTDA Board

Ashley Gregory

Lori Hoos

Jennifer Thompson

Jessica Roberson Wright

*Visit tndressage.com for
contact information*

CTDA Committees

Volunteers: Beth Huff

Membership: Jessica Roberson Wright

Ads & Sponsorship: Jennifer Thompson

Hospitality: Carolyn Foster

Communications: Michael Foster

A Show for Every Horse and Rider, continued

The Ole South Prelude and Ole South Dressage shows on August 24-26 will include classes for the Tennessee State Dressage Championship. The Championship is being moved-up from October to avoid competing with regional finals. The three days of competition take place at Miller Coliseum in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Competitors may qualify for championship classes with scores earned in either 2011 or 2012. 2011 scores are grandfathered because the event was cancelled in 2011.

Members of any USDF GMO (Group Membership Organization) in Tennessee are eligible to compete in championship classes if they were members at the time their qualifying scores were earned. Visit tndressage.com for details about qualifying scores.



True Spirit of Horsemanship — By Mimi Bliss

Learning to ride was a childhood dream for CTDA member Minerva Covarrubias. She took her first riding lesson at the age of 23 in Southern California, a region which is home to dressage Olympians such as Hilda Gurney and Steffen Peters.

Exposure to top competitors convinced Minerva to pursue dressage.

“I wanted to ride like that,” said Minerva.

Minerva’s journey with horses took her from that first riding lesson to eventually owning four horses and a farm in Culleoka, Tennessee, which is south of Franklin in Maury County. She has regularly competed at CTDA’s recognized shows for the past 4 years.

CTDA recognized Minerva’s commitment to dressage and horses in January 2012 with the ***Dee Minault Horsemanship Award***, which recognizes the true spirit of horsemanship. The award is given to someone with a comprehensive tool box for the many aspects of horse riding, care and competition, and who spreads the word and shares their knowledge with others.

Minerva was Champion at Introductory Level in the Gold Division (recognized shows) of CTDA’s 2012 Year-End Awards. She is a member of 70% club, which recognizes competitors who score above 70% at a CTDA show.

As an adult getting introduced to the sport, Minerva applied herself to learning about horses and dressage in a systematic manner that sounds similar to the training pyramid. A physician by training, she took a home-study course in natural horsemanship, read articles and watched videos.

“I worked pretty hard to learn about horses,” said Minerva. “I’m focused on learning the building blocks and being the best rider I can be for my horses.”

Minerva’s first horse was Jeans, who is now a twenty-four year old retired Saddlebred. “Jeans was the motivation behind improving my horsemanship skills. He was very spooky and nervous, and I had more on my hands than I could handle at the time. The skills I learned through the home-study courses helped me manage his fear, and ultimately he learned to trust and respect me as a leader.”

Minerva also owns Poco and Valentine, quarter horses whom she competes at CTDA shows; and Merlyn, a Lippizan/Arabian cross whom she purchased as a colt.

Minerva found her trainer, CTDA member Lori Hoos, through USDF. Lori trained Poco for dressage and Lori’s daughter, Becca, trains Merlyn.

“It’s been neat to watch them develop,” said Minerva.

Minerva juggles caring for and riding her horses with her career as a pulmonary and critical care physician at Maury Regional Medical Center. Her goal is to move up the levels and always be learning because, as she says, “we owe it to the horse.”



Minerva Covarrubias riding Poco

Year-End Award Winners



Beth Huff & Lord London

GOLD PROGRAM

INTRODUCTORY LEVEL:
CHAMPION: Minerva Covarrubias (AA) riding Mae Be Poco Rojo

TRAINING LEVEL:
CHAMPIONS:
 - Katie MacFarlane (JR/YR) riding Mercury, Owner Brandie Heidenway
 - Laura Wayman (AA) riding Dramiro
 - Debbie Hill (O) riding Sir Sherlock, Owner Leslie Waterman
RESERVE CHAMPION:
 Luanne Wagner (AA) riding Renselear, Owner Chris Saia



Garra Walline & Bling

FIRST LEVEL:
CHAMPIONS:
 Beth Huff (AA) riding Lord London
 Debbie Hill (O) riding Sir Sherlock, Owner Leslie Waterman

SECOND LEVEL:
CHAMPION:
 Jennifer Thompson (AA) riding Remington
RESERVE CHAMPION:
 Susie Stephens (AA) riding Rohanz

THIRD LEVEL:
CHAMPION:
 Melissa Cool (O) riding Rave Review, Owner Michele Brase

FOURTH LEVEL:
CHAMPIONS:
 Jennifer Thompson (AA) riding Robinson 286
 Melissa Cool (O) riding Rave Review, Owner Michele Brase

RESERVE CHAMPIONS:
 Michele Brase (AA) riding Cavalla
 Garra Walline (O) riding Wespe

FEI GRAND PRIX:
CHAMPION:
 Melissa Cool (O) riding Galileo

Editor's Note:

AA is Adult Amateur

O is Open

JR/YR is Junior/Young Rider



Jennifer Thompson & Robinson 286



Melissa Cool & Rave Review (Owner Micki Brase)

Year-End Award Winners, continued



Michael Foster & Patriot

SILVER PROGRAM

TRAINING LEVEL:

CHAMPIONS:

Michael Foster (AA) riding Patriot
 Brandie Heidenway (O) riding Delilah

RESERVE CHAMPION:

Jennifer Hogan (O) riding Patriot, Owner Michael Foster

FIRST LEVEL:

CHAMPION:

Alice Underwood (AA) riding Will Nine

SECOND LEVEL:

CHAMPION:

Jennifer Hogan (O) riding Amarillo, Owner Michael Foster

BRONZE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTORY LEVEL:

CHAMPIONS:

Jordan Lockwood (JR under 13) riding Guapo, Owner Brandie Heidenway

Libby MacFarlane (AA) riding Masquerade, Owner Brandie Heidenway

Brandie Heidenway (O) riding Buddy, Owner Susan Taylor

RESERVE CHAMPION:

Josie Johnson (JR under 13) riding Baby

TRAINING LEVEL:

CHAMPIONS:

Cathy Holmes (AA) riding Khloe

Jennifer Hogan (O) riding Pipe Dream, Owner Michael Foster

RESERVE CHAMPION:

Lara Stringfield (O) riding Wolverine

70% CLUB

Minerva Covarrubias

Carolyn Foster

Grace Gregory

Brandie Heidenway

Debbie Hill

Jennifer Hogan

Libby MacFarlane

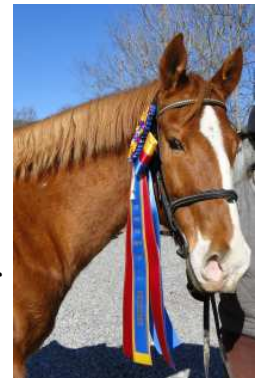
Garra Walline

Luanne Wagner

Laura Wayman



Members of the CTDA 70% Club



Masquerade



Leslie Waterman & Chris Saia



Susie Stephens



Cathy Holmes



Lara Stringfield

Thank you to Year-End Awards Volunteers: Micki Brase, Awards Coordinator; Cathy Holmes, Mustard Seed Photography, who takes photos of our honorees; & Jeff Wagner, our master of ceremonies!

New Member Profile



Alice Underwood

Alice and her horse, Will Nine, an eleven-year-old Thoroughbred, were Adult Amateur champions at First Level in the Silver Division. Silver recognizes scores from a combination of schooling and USDF-recognized dressage shows.

Alice was a new member of CTDA in 2011. "I did both recognized and schooling shows," said Alice. "It's great to be recognized for my work and dedication throughout the year."

A medical stenographer for Murfreesboro Medical Clinic, Alice lives near Lynchburg, Tennessee. She rides with CTDA member and trainer Jenni Hogan. Will Nine is a retired race horse whom Alice bought as an event horse before focusing exclusively on dressage.

"He's a beautiful mover and we decided dressage was his thing," said Alice.

Alice plans to compete at Second Level in 2012. She expects to show Will Nine at the first CTDA schooling show of the year on March 24 and at the Tennessean.

Alice says that CTDA membership is an opportunity to meet other dressage riders, get discounts at schooling shows and stay relatively close to home. She highly recommends the schooling shows because of the "laid-back atmosphere and opportunity to talk to the judges." She praised schooling show secretary Sherry Pride.

"Sherry is very friendly," said Alice. "She's always there, which shows a lot of dedication."

Volunteers of the Year

CTDA honored Linda Hogan-Pruiksma and Katharina Nowotny-Boles as Volunteers of the Year for their many hours of hard work on CTDA's website. Linda, a computer programmer, designed the new website, which is more attractive, customized and user-friendly than the earlier version. Katharina handles text and editing.

Linda grew-up on a dairy farm in Wartrace, Tennessee where she "played with ponies." As an adult, Linda lives on a farm in Bell Buckle with her family and six horses. Her horses include a broodmare, a Dutch Warmblood mare and a Mustang whom Linda proudly reports "earned a 9 on his free walk at Training Level." Linda says her philosophy is "the best teacher is the horse."

Katharina lives in Shelbyville with her husband and five horses. She grew-up riding jumpers in Austria. She moved to the United States with her husband in 1998 and travels internationally for her job as a supply chain manager.

Katharina bought three of her horses from the late Ed Rothkranz, a well-known trainer and breeder. She praises her warmbloods for their good temperament. A past recipient of a scholarship from USDF's Gifted Fund, Katharina volunteers frequently as a scribe for CTDA dressage shows. Her goal is to be a dressage judge.



Linda and Winni

Do You Ride in the Sumner County Area?

CTDA member Nancy Whitman of Castalian Springs is looking for dressage riders to serve as 'eyes on the ground' for each other. She also does pet-sitting. 615-218-2557, nancy.whitman@hotmail.com.

An Early Start — By Mimi Bliss



Jordan Lockwood & Guapo

Dressage is a sport for riders of all ages. CTDA's Year-End Awards honored two of our youngest members for their achievements in dressage.

Eleven-year-old Jordan Lockwood was Champion and ten-year-old Josie Johnson was Reserve Champion for juniors under age 13 at Introductory Level in the Bronze Division. Bronze recognizes scores from schooling shows.

Jordan is a sixth grader who is home-schooled with her twin brother in Franklin. She takes lessons with CTDA past president and trainer Brandie Heidenway. Jordan rode Brandie's horse, Guapo, at CTDA schooling shows.



Jenni Hogan & Josie Johnson

Jordan's father says the family is proud of Jordan's progress in dressage.

"Jordan loves the precision of dressage," said Tim Lockwood. "We appreciate that Brandie has taken the time and encouraged us to go to the shows."

Tim says the family is building a house in Leiper's Fork with plenty of room for a horse.

"Horses are Jordan's passion," said Tim.

Josie is a fourth grader at Bethesda Elementary School in Williamson County. "Baby," a Quarter Horse, was a gift for her ninth birthday. Josie rides with Jenni Hogan and boards Baby at Jenni's Double H Farm in Chapel Hill. Josie also plays softball and sings in a chorus.

"Josie enjoys preparing and training for the shows," said Andrea Johnson, Josie's mother. She loves to fix-up Baby and get her ready."

News of Josie's CTDA award was included in school announcements at Bethesda Elementary.

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SOONER

Meet the CTDA Board Members — By Mimi Bliss



Ashley Gregory

Ashley Gregory brings many years of experience with CTDA dressage shows to her new role as a member of the board of directors. Ashley competed in her first CTDA show when she was fourteen years-old. She remembers showing at CTDA's Tennessean show when it was held at Brownland Farms.

After so many years as a competitor, Ashley is looking forward to serving on the CTDA board.

"I'm such a fan of dressage," said Ashley. "I'm interested in learning about the business side of the shows and spending more time around people with common interests. I enjoy being around horse people."

An adult amateur rider, Ashley is a registered nurse at Stonecrest Medical Center in Smyrna. She grew-up in Murfreesboro and took lessons with dressage trainer Jane Pugh. Ashley now rides with CTDA member and trainer Jessica Roberson-Wright.

Ashley showed her horse, Malachi (stable name is Viktor), at Prix St. Georges last year. He's currently being treated for laminitis related to Cushing's Disease. Victor is making progress and Ashley hopes to return to riding and showing by summer.

You can reach Ashley at arg2belle@yahoo.com.

Luanne Wagner

CTDA board member Luanne Wagner transitioned to dressage in 1996 after many years of riding saddlebreds and hunter/jumpers.

"I took a lesson on a dressage schoolmaster and got hooked," said Luanne.

Luanne and her husband, Jeff, are originally from California and moved to Middle Tennessee in 2004. They own Moon Shadows Farm in Dickson, which is home to their horses and a few boarders. Luanne hosts monthly clinics with Carrie Harnden, a dressage trainer from California.

Luanne has served on the CTDA board of directors for several years.

Luanne is a past volunteer coordinator for CTDA and currently serves as treasurer. She believes in giving her time to support dressage in our area.

"We depend on our members for support," said Luanne. "Volunteers keep our dressage shows going and also help in many ways with maintaining a successful and functioning club."

Luanne plans to show her eighteen-year old Holsteiner at Prix St. Georges this year after a break while he recovered from a torn ligament injury. She will also compete with another horse at First Level and plans to ride her three-year-old to get some miles on her.

You can reach Luanne at jandlwagner@att.net.



A Teacher At Heart — By Mimi Bliss

CTDA member Sharon Anthony is a teacher at heart.

Her career includes thirty-plus years as a teacher and principal with Metro Nashville Public Schools, leadership positions with the Middle Tennessee Pony Club, director of a summer camp called “Day Camp for Horse Lovers,” and coach of many event riders in our area.

“Horses have always been a major passion,” said Sharon.

Sharon received her first pony when she was twelve years old and quickly became active in Pony Club. She moved from participating in Pony Club to coaching younger riders. As a teacher for Metro Nashville Public Schools, she hosted a day camp for children and parents during summer vacation.

“Many of my campers became lifelong riders,” said Sharon. “They went on to leadership in Pony Club and gave back to the sport.”

Sharon didn’t have time for camp when she moved into school administration, but she continued coaching event riders and riding herself.

“As a high school principal, your time is not your own,” said Sharon. “Horses are great after a long day at work.”

When Sharon retired, she and her husband converted an dairy farm in Primm Springs, Tennessee, into a retirement home for horses. They turned the milking parlor into a house and set-up the farm for the retirees and Sharon’s horses.

Continued on next page

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On Being a Participating Member Delegate — By Brandie Heidenway

If you've ever been interested in the inner workings of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and want to see what goes on behind the scenes, you may want to attend the USDF annual convention and/or become a Participating Member (PM) delegate for your region. I served as a PM delegate in both 2010 and 2011 and hope to be elected again in 2012.

Going to the convention is exciting and fun, and so totally different from going to a horse show or other horsey function. The educational opportunities offered are seemingly endless, including workshops, lectures, and demonstrations. It's always interesting to make dressage friends from around the country to compare notes and swap ideas.

Participating Member (PM) delegates are elected annually in the nine USDF Regions. The primary responsibilities of a PM delegate are to represent the interests of the participating members in their respective region, and to attend the Board of Governors meeting at the annual convention.

We discuss all things currently on the dressage horizon at this annual business meeting, from championships to budgets, from rule changes to upcoming programs. The topics are wide and varied, and sometimes the discussions get a little heated! When several hundred passionate dressage enthusiasts are in the same room, there are bound to be differing opinions and animated discussion.

Any USDF participating member in good standing can be nominated to be a PM delegate, as long as he or she isn't a member of the USDF Executive Board. Nominations can be made by any USDF member by sending the name of the nominee to nominations@usdf.org.

I invite you to attend the 2012 convention in New Orleans and get more involved in USDF. You'll gain an appreciation for what makes the machine of USDF run smoothly. I hope to see you there!

Teacher at Heart, continued — Mimi Bliss

"We have horses retired from dressage, jumping, and endurance," said Sharon, who cares for the horses with help from a part-time employee. "They had great careers and brought joy to people... and now they still have wonderful strong personalities. I treat them like my own horses."

Sharon plans to event her horse, It's Teddy, at shows in Georgia, Indiana and Kentucky in 2012. In addition, Sharon and her husband, Mike Weesner, who is also a "horse person," foster dogs for the Hickman County Humane Association.

As someone who has led numerous organizations, Sharon says she's appreciative of the many volunteers who support dressage in our area. "I'm appreciative and thankful to be in an area with a strong dressage community," said Sharon. For information about the retirement farm, you can reach Sharon at 931-670-0794.



In Memory

We lost three members of the dressage community in recent months. CTDA members Jayne Rogovin and Terri Pewett died from cancer. Our condolences go to Barry Capps on the loss of his wife, Nancy, late last year. Barry is a farrier who works with many CTDA members. Jayne, Terri and Nancy will be missed by their many friends at CTDA.



2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND YEAR-END AWARDS PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Return form to:
CTDA—Membership
P.O. Box 681056
Franklin, TN 37068-1056

CTDA is a group member organization of the United States Dressage Federation and its members are automatically USDF group members. For USDF Participating Membership, members must apply directly to USDF.

Name:	Phone:
Address:	Alternate phone:
City, State, Zip	
E-mail:	
Status: Adult Amateur Junior Professional	Date of birth:
Referred by:	USDF#:

Roster info CTDA may make available to other members: Name
 I am a new member
 I am renewing a previous membership

Address Phone # Cell Phone # Email address
 I would like to receive the newsletter on-line
 I would like to receive the newsletter by US mail

Membership year for CTDA is Dec. 1–Nov. 30.
 Initial Fee: **\$45.00**, each additional family member:
\$20.00 (Family defined as spouses and dependents)

Areas in which you are willing to volunteer your time:
 Scorer Hospitality Runner
 Gate keeper Transportation Pre/post-show set up
 Fund raising Video library Scribe
 Jr/YR Group PR/Sponsorship Club Admin.
 Committee (please specify) Other area (please specify)

Please make your check payable to **CTDA**. \$20 of the annual dues goes toward your USDF affiliate group membership.

CTDA offers Year-End Awards for horse and rider combinations, as well as a Volunteer of the Year, Most Improved Horse/Rider Combination and a Participation Award.

Activities you would like to see CTDA offer:
 Clinics Recognized Shows
 Seminars Schooling Shows
 Other (please specify):

- In order to be eligible for Year-End Awards:**
- ✓ The rider must be a current CTDA member at the time scores are earned.
 (All horses shown by CTDA rider/owner will be eligible. Scores from CTDA organized shows and other recognized shows must be submitted on the Rider Report Form between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15.)
 - ✓ Rider must complete 5 hours of CTDA volunteer work per horse and must turn in their Volunteer Hour Affidavit, with signatures, to the Awards Coordinator with Rider Report Form *OR* sell a minimum \$60.00 in ads and/or sponsorships for a CTDA organized event (i.e. recognized show, clinic, banquet).
 - ✓ See CTDA website (www.tndressage.com) for complete eligibility details.

Comments you would like to make to the Board:

See CTDA website at www.tndressage.com for more member benefit information, calendar of events and current news updates.

**CENTRAL TENNESSEE DRESSAGE
ASSOCIATION**

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tndressage.com

About Our Organization

The Central Tennessee Dressage Association (CTDA) is a Group Member Organization of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and its members are automatically USDF group members.

The CTDA is committed to furthering the sport of Dressage, the education of its members and the recognition of their achievements in the sport of Dressage.

The CTDA encourages all who are similarly committed to this sport to join, learn, achieve, and grow with us.

- - The CTDA

2012 USDF-Recognized Shows

Tennessean / Tennessean Express

April 14 & 15

Miller Coliseum

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

June Classic

June 23

Old Hillsboro Manor

Franklin, Tenn.

Ole South Prelude, Ole South
Dressage & State Championship

August 24-26

Miller Coliseum

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

CTDA Schooling Shows

March 24

Greystone in Lynnville

May 5

Double H Farm in Chapel Hill

July 21

Moon Shadows Farm in Dickson

August 11

Walnut Trace Farm in Nashville

September 22

Chasing the Muse Farm in Arrington

October 13

Willing Horse Farm in College Grove