



e:news SALUTE

May 2009 June

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SWVADA News...

April 18th Schooling Show (submitted by Ellen Aiken)

After a spring full of weather surprises, an absolutely perfect day greeted our first schooling show of the season. On Friday morning, Tobie Bentz, Blanche Mahoney, Ellen Aiken and Bob Whitehurst set up the ring. On Saturday we enjoyed seeing lots of new faces along with familiar pairs of horse and rider. A few seasoned competitors brought their new prospects, always exciting to see! Our ever popular judge, Harriet Peterson, kept things moving efficiently and cheerfully, while Pat Nelson did double duty as Secretary and Scorer. Manager Ellen Aiken moved from job to job as needed and helped new volunteers get comfortable learning their assignments. Veteran volunteer, Meredith McGrath, scribed the entire day, and we had lots of others rounding out the crew on morning and afternoon shifts, including Debra Clapp, Amy Elliot, Sue Egolf, Gary Goodale, Megan Jones (and Dad!), Claudia Lokant, Blanche Mahoney, Cindy Sours, and Phyl Wenkstern. Jan Keener provided our concessions with her usual fine offering of sandwiches, salads and to-die-for desserts. Thanks to all the competitors, staff and volunteers, who

helped kick off our show season successfully!

Reminders for Competitors at

GHPEC Please remember to use the TRAILER entrance at the park. Signs are clearly posted. This entrance was created for your safety. Also competitors who opt to use stalls MUST clean them before departing. Additionally, bedding materials, such as sawdust or shavings, are NOT allowed.

A Day of Dressage Fun

Immerse yourself in dressage on August 22 at GHPEC. The planned events include a variety of demonstrations and booths aimed at providing entertainment and education for both dressage newbies and veterans free of charge. We are still in the planning stages for this event so if you would like to have your input and ideas heard, or would like to volunteer as a demo rider, exhibitor and/or manning a booth, please contact Mary McFee mary_mcfee@hotmail.com or Beckie Mitchell beck56@cox.net More information to follow in future E-News Salute issues.



The First Dressage Lesson

“Spotless Reputation” aka “Coelho”

Keeping the Dressage Horse Sound by Tracey Smith Oliver

The following article is the second of a series that highlights a few of the topics covered at the Seventh Annual Weekend Education Program. The Program was held Jan. 31st to Feb 2nd in Woodbury CT. This session was presented by Dr. Brendan Furlong and sponsored by the Advanced Equine Research Institute, LLC (www.keepinghorsesound.com).

Dr. Furlong's areas of special interest are in Sport Horse performance, especially lameness and loss of performance. Pre-Purchase exams are also a special interest of Dr. Furlong's and his expertise and reputation have taken him all over the world to perform pre-purchase exams on behalf of his clients. Perhaps the most overriding theme I took away from Dr Furlong's presentation was that lots of turnout on healthy pastures was key to keeping a horse happy and sound. Unfortunately, many in the dressage community misguidedly believe that turnout takes away from the "brilliance" sought after in the dressage arena. The following are a few highlights of his presentation:

Gastric Ulcers: Any horse in regular work or exposed to periods of high stress or long distance transport, with limited access to pasture, or on a high concentrate/low roughage diet is a candidate for ulcers. The prolonged use of banamine or phenylbutazone can also contribute to ulcer development. The most common complaints leading to the examination of these performance horses include declining performance, recurrent colic, loss of condition or weight, behavior changes, and back soreness. Dressage horses with ulcers are often described as difficult to train or reluctant to work. The only way to confirm the presence of ulcers is by examining the stomach using a 3-meter gastroscope. The more roughage and turnout, the less likely the horse will get gastric ulcers.

Supplements: Dr. Furlong believes that the majority of supplements are a waste of money. However, there are a few exceptions. Independent research has shown efficacy with the Platinum Performance products. In addition, there is a great deal of evidence showing efficacy with the Adequan/Legend products. Adequan is better for preventing arthritis while Legend is better used in the horse already diagnosed with arthritis. He believes that your money is better spent getting your hay and grain analyzed rather than spending it on supplements. He also believes that "maintenance" injections are often performed too frequently and too early in age.

Lameness Exams: Dr. Furlong prefers to conduct lameness exams on a flat surface with rubber mats.

Horses are not afraid to move on this surface and lameness is usually very evident. Other diagnostic tools include:

Standing MRI – This tool evaluates both bone and soft tissue. There is no better modality to evaluate the foot (the source of 80% of lameness).

Digital Radiographs - The images that develop using digital radiography are far clearer, have sharper edges and overall greatly improved quality than conventional x-rays.

Ultrasound - This non-invasive tool is used to examine and evaluate damaged ligaments or tendons. It is also useful to evaluate stifle joints.

Nuclear Scintigraphy "Bone Scan" - The most common use of a bone scan is in those cases, in which nerve blocks fail to localize lameness, or in which lameness is localized but x-ray findings are negative. It should not be used as a "fishing expedition." This diagnostic tool is useful for identifying back problems and great for identifying stress fractures.

Advanced high speed video analysis – This tool is very useful for detecting subtle lamenesses. When combined with accelerometry, it can detect lamenesses that are imperceptible to the human eye.

Other highlights:

Dr. Furlong cited a recent study from the Univ of Michigan which showed that leaving horses barefoot (and with very little trimming) until 4 years of age resulted in a much better chance of staying sound. These results are not surprising since hoof development, particularly for at least the first three years is dependent on regular exercise and turnout to stimulate the foot before it is subjected to shoes and farrier work. A horse raised in a controlled environment such as in a stall or in a small paddock, has limited chance of adaption to develop a mature and substantial foot.

In summary, while this presentation focused more on diagnostic tools than the title suggested, Dr. Furlong emphasized the importance of turnout in keeping horses sound. In addition, since the foot is the source of 80% of lameness, maintaining healthy, balanced feet is critical.

Upcoming SWVADA Show and Clinic Dates

May 10 Clinic w/ Harriet Peterson GHPEC Contact: Laura Nelson at galliard.laura7@gmail.net

May 23 Licensed Show GHPEC Manager: Nancy Stone, Secretary: Mary McFee

June 13 Ride a Test GHPEC - Manager: Judy Bonin

July 4- Schooling Show GHPEC Manger: Bob Whitehurst Secretary: Janet Brown

August 22 Clinic Committee: Mary McFee, Laura Nelson,

September 12 Clinic w/ Harriet Peterson GHPEC Contact: Laura Nelson for more information

October 3 Schooling Show GHPEC Manager: Maeve Crowgey, Secretary: Heather Hurst Weaver

Noteworthy...

Congratulations to Lynn Jendrowski and GQ Romeo on having completed and passed the ISR/Oldenburg Lifetime Stallion testing. This is an arduous process spanning two weeks and many phases of testing. Way to go Romeo!

Bedford County can boast of two new beautiful foals, both sired by Nan Palmer's Paint stallion, Smooth Sail N Dude aka, Frosty. The first to arrive was "American Pie" on March 10th. Pie is a boldly colored filly with beautifully correct confirmation and a people friendly temperament. She is owned by Judy Westenhofer of Central Manor Farm. "Spotless Reputation" was born on Easter and has appropriately acquired the barn name of "Coelho" which is Portuguese for bunny. Coelho is a pretty bay colt with a white star, 2 hind stockings and an endearing

personality. (He is only the third in over seventy foals sired by Frosty to have solid coat color) He is owned by Marie Klimchuk of Cobbs Mountain Farm.



"American Pie"

VADA News

Adult Team Competition VADA will give \$100 per team to each Chapter for up to 4 teams. There will be no USDF grant this year. In order to receive VADA funding, the team has to be sponsored by a Chapter and all team members must be VADA members. Cindy Aspden will be the stable manager. If you are interested in sponsoring a class in this competition, please contact Gardy Bloemers at gardy@gardybloemers.com or visit <http://sponsorusdfadultteamreg1.wordpress.com/>

Update on Fall GAIG Fall Show The Horse Center has been making a lot of positive changes. They have a new director. There is also a new food vendor and we are not locked into having them as our only food supplier. Friday night will be the wine and cheese party. The dog show will be held on Saturday. We need dedicated help for ring maintenance, awards ceremonies, judge transportation, scoring and the volunteer room. Sweatshirts will be sky blue this year.

The Anne Gribbons Clinic was very successful. There were about 100 auditors on Saturday. She was able to quickly determine each rider and horse issue and kept us entertained. She has a wonderful sense of humor. She is one of the only "O" judges that still actively competes. It was agreed that we would like to have her back for another clinic.

Future Competitions At the Region One meeting it was voted that in 2010 the BLM goes to VADA and the GAIG will go to NC once the executive board approves it.

Tug of War: Classical vs. “Modern” Dressage by Dr. Gerd Heusschmann

A review by Laura Nelson

Anyone who has followed dressage on a national or international level over the past few years is bound to have read about or even entered the debate over the training technique known as “hyperflexion” or “Rollkur”.

In his book the author, a German rider and veterinarian, first reviews the anatomy of the horse as it relates to the back and neck muscles, and then explains in detail how this training method is harmful both to the structure and the psychology of the horse. The text is accompanied by photographs depicting horses being ridden both correctly and incorrectly (with the riders’ faces tactfully blurred beyond recognition) and diagrams to illustrate the anatomy being discussed.

He frankly places the blame for what he sees as a dangerous and damaging trend upon the riders, trainers, breeders and judges for seeking to produce the most “showy” horse without consideration for the means of arriving there. He also briefly mentions the recent young horse tests and the problems that he sees there. He advocates and refers frequently to the more “classical” training techniques that have stood the test of time partly because they take time.

At the conclusion of the text, he states the “Nine Ethical Principles of the True Horseman”, published originally in 1994 by the German National Equestrian Federation. I think they bear listing here.

1. Anyone involved with a horse takes over the responsibility for this living creature entrusted to him.
2. The horse must be kept in a way that is in keeping with its natural living requirements.
3. Highest priority must be accorded to the physical as well as psychological health of the horse, irrespective of the purpose for which it is used.
4. Man must respect every horse alike, regardless of its age, breed and sex and its use for breeding, for recreation or in sporting competition.
5. Knowledge of the history of the horse, its needs, and how to handle it are part of our historic-cultural heritage. This information must be cherished and safeguarded, in order to be passed on to the next generations.
6. Contact and dealings with horses are character-building experiences and of valuable significance to the development of the human being – in particular, the young person. this aspect must always be respected and promoted.
7. The human who participates in equestrian sports with his horse must subject himself, as well as his horse to training. The goal of any training is to bring about the best possible harmony between rider and horse.
8. The use of the horse in competition as well as in general riding, driving and vaulting must be geared toward the horse’s ability, temperament and willingness to perform. Manipulating a horse’s capacity to work by means of medication or other “horse-unfriendly” influences should be rejected by all, and people engaged in such practices should be prosecuted.
9. The responsibility a human has for the horse entrusted to him includes the end of the horse’s life. the human must always assume this responsibility and implement any decision in the best interest of the horse.

After reading this book, there is no doubt in my mind that this is not the correct pathway to follow in the training of a horse whether it is for dressage or any other use. As advocates for the horses’ well being, we should make note of harmful training practices and take steps to see them halted. This could include reporting such behavior to the Technical Delegate at a competition, or it may involve refusing to employ the services of a particular trainer or judge. I highly recommend reading this book and applaud the author for tackling this subject in such an honest and detailed manner.

Editors note: *There is now a groundbreaking new film out based on this book titled, “If Horses Could Speak”. Through the magic of 3-D animation, viewers are shown how the horse’s limbs, muscles, and ligaments interact at various gaits. In addition, live-action examples of riding, both good and bad, demonstrate the effect human beings have on their equine partners. Perhaps this is one SWVADA should add to the Video Library....*

GHPEC News...

Thanks to Kevin Hayes for taking over the Sound System project. The system is expected to be completed by May 1st.

The Eagle Scout Mounting Block Project has met it's funding goal thanks to the SWVADA board who donated \$100 and the GHPEC Committee who donated \$400 to this worthy cause.

Another Boy Scout Project is being considered which would involve a picnic area near the creek behind the round pen.

Tammy has been studying spreadsheets to determine that the revenue generated by both membership fees and park events will adequately cover park expenditures. This information will help guide the committee's future decisions regarding park maintenance and capitol improvements

A few important reminders to members:

Gates must be locked behind you to discourage trespassers.

Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

Guest(s) must have applied for one day pass to ride with members. Furthermore, if a non-member is found riding with out proper validation, the member he came with risks having his membership revoked. Ouch!

If you see people who you **know** are trespassing through the park (or worse yet, riding on the soccer fields) please call the non-emergency number for the Roanoke County police which 540-562-3265. The Committee discourages any confrontation between park members and trespassers, but does encourage the wholesome hobby of photography!

Educational Opportunities...

Tracey Smith Oliver is hosting a Cindy Sydnor Clinic at her farm, Dixon Hill, in Fairfield, Virginia on June 20-21st. Fees are as follows: \$85/ride \$10/night stabling and \$10/day auditing. Contact Tracey at 540-348-6734 for more info. To learn more about Cindy visit www.braeburnfarms.com

Video Library See our website at www.swvada.org for a complete listing of educational dressage videos and DVD's . Contact the video librarian, Katherine Gramam to arrange checkout at KCGraman@aol.com And please remember to send your Southern States feed proof of purchase labels to Laura Nelson. These labels are SWVADA's source of funding for the video library.

links

Horse/ Dressage Organizations....

www.swvada.org

www.virginiadressage.org

www.usdf.org

www.usef.org

www.ponyclub.org

www.blueridgeeventingassociation.org

www.virginiahorsecouncil.org

Sites for Fun and Learning

www.virginiahorse.com

www.dressageunlimited.com

www.dressagedaily.com

www.dressageresource.com

www.dressageblog.com

www.dressagecritique.com

Dogs look up to you; cats look down on you; pigs treat you as an equal.
Winston Churchill

