

COLLECTIVE REMARKS



Editor Fran Kehr franwkf@gmail.com

THE HDS DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

HDS Show Staff

& all competitors say:
"THANK YOU!!!"

To our dedicated, unselfish VOLUNTEERS!!!!


 Houston Dressage Society Thanks our Wonderful
 Volunteers!
 These Volunteers Have Given 25 or More Hours to Make
 Our 2023 Recognized Shows a Success

Julie Roberts ☺
 Candy Beck Brake ☺ Sandy Venneman ☺
 Jena Tavormina ☺ Nancy Prochaska ☺
 Jennifer Cotton ☺ Kathy Jones ☺
 Laura Akin ☺ Joe Akin ☺
 Leslie Cummings ☺

Beth Shelton Leslie Rohrer
 Lisa Mattson Megan McClay
 Erika Dittrich

Simone van der Schalk Rebekah Wesatzke
 Bess Bruton Julia Peacock
 Deborah Burkhead

Colleen Akin Emily Conn
 Cynthia Werner Tegan Pedigo
 Connie Buseha Heidi Lowthorp
 Carolyn Vandenberg

☺ Donated 60+ hours to HDS

Breaking news:

Big Bash Year End Awards
 Celebration (ie banquet, NON-
 banquet) Jan 20 at the HDS
 "Freeze Your Ass Off" Winter 1 &
 2 Show...

Super Awards! HDS CHAIRS for
 Rec Show Champs; HDS
 expensive, classy monogrammed
 whips for Reserve Champ. HDS
 Garment bags for Champ
 Schooling Show winners... HDS
 Saddlepads for Reserve.

How do you win???

- 1) Join HDS
- 2) Horse/Rider register
- 3) Volunteer 4 hrs
- 4) 5 scores National Tests
- 5) 4 scores FEI Tests
- 6) 3 scores for Freestyles
- 7) Check HDS Website for more
 details!!!!!!



Houston Dressage Society Congratulates
The 2023 Recognized Shows Year End Winners

Training Level

Adult Amateur Champion: Valerie Jarosek & Flambeau
Open Champion: John Mason & Splendido
Junior/Young Rider Champion: Madelyn Yi & Lea Perla Negra DC
Junior/Young Rider Reserve Champion: Madelyn Yi & Cartwheel Toeata

First Level

Adult Amateur Champion: Valerie Jarosek & Flambeau
Adult Amateur Reserve Champion: Sarah Isham & Furstin Idona
Open Champion: Kristin Stringer & Farallon
Open Reserve Champion: John Mason & Zarina
Junior/Young Rider Champion: Madelyn Yi & Cartwheel Toeata

Second Level

Adult Amateur Champion: Holly Klay & Faerst Dancer MF
Open Champion: John Mason & Noble Romantic SWF
Open Reserve Champion: John Mason & Mein Toto

Third Level

Adult Amateur Champion: Jena Tavormina & It's Van Dria
Adult Amateur Reserve Champion: Jessica Quillivan & Lucea
Open Champion: John Mason & George
Open Reserve Champion: John Mason & Mein Toto



Houston Dressage Society Congratulates
The 2023 Recognized Shows Year End Winners

Fourth Level

Adult Amateur Champion: Anne Singley & Gaston TF
Adult Amateur Reserve Champion: Jessica Quillivan & Lucea
Open Champion: Sandy Venneman & Unsiga

Prix St. Georges

Open Champion: John Mason & For My Heart
Open Reserve Champion: John Mason & True Temptation SWF

Intermediate I

Open Champion: John Mason & For My Heart
Open Reserve Champion: Sammi Jo Stohler & Gunner

National Level Freestyles

Adult Amateur Champion: Amy Marrieh & Penny Lane
Open Champion: Ivy Baekes & Rey MP

FEL Level Freestyles

Open Champion: John Mason & For My Heart
Open Reserve Champion: Sammi Jo Stohler & Gunner



Houston Dressage Society Congratulates
The 2023 Schooling Shows Year End Winners

Prix St. Georges

Open Champion: Sandy Venneman & Unsiga

Dressage Equitation

Junior/Young Rider Champion: Gaia Justwan & Rustalata

Prix Caprilli

Junior/Young Rider Champion: Lauren Cordell & Smokey Doe Jet

Eventing Dressage

Adult Amateur Champion: Grace Atkins & You n Me Too
Junior/Young Rider Champion: Mila Paradz & Loaded Snapshot

Western Dressage

Adult Amateur Champion: Valerie Poulter & Sunny San Boon
Adult Amateur Reserve Champion: Melanie Miniek & Corona Koozie
Open Champion: Jessica McClary & Uneorked
Open Reserve Champion: Beeky Nesbitt & Magnums Finest Chie
Junior/Young Rider Champion: Bigail Steebek & Too Terrific to Hotrod
Junior/Young Rider Reserve Champion: Hailey Prinster & Shining Bueno Bar



Houston Dressage Society Congratulates
The 2023 Schooling Shows Year End Winners

Prix St. Georges

Open Champion: Sandy Venneman & Unsiga

Dressage Equitation

Junior/Young Rider Champion: Gaia Justwan & Rustalata

Prix Caprilli

Junior/Young Rider Champion: Lauren Cordell & Smokey Doe Jet

Eventing Dressage

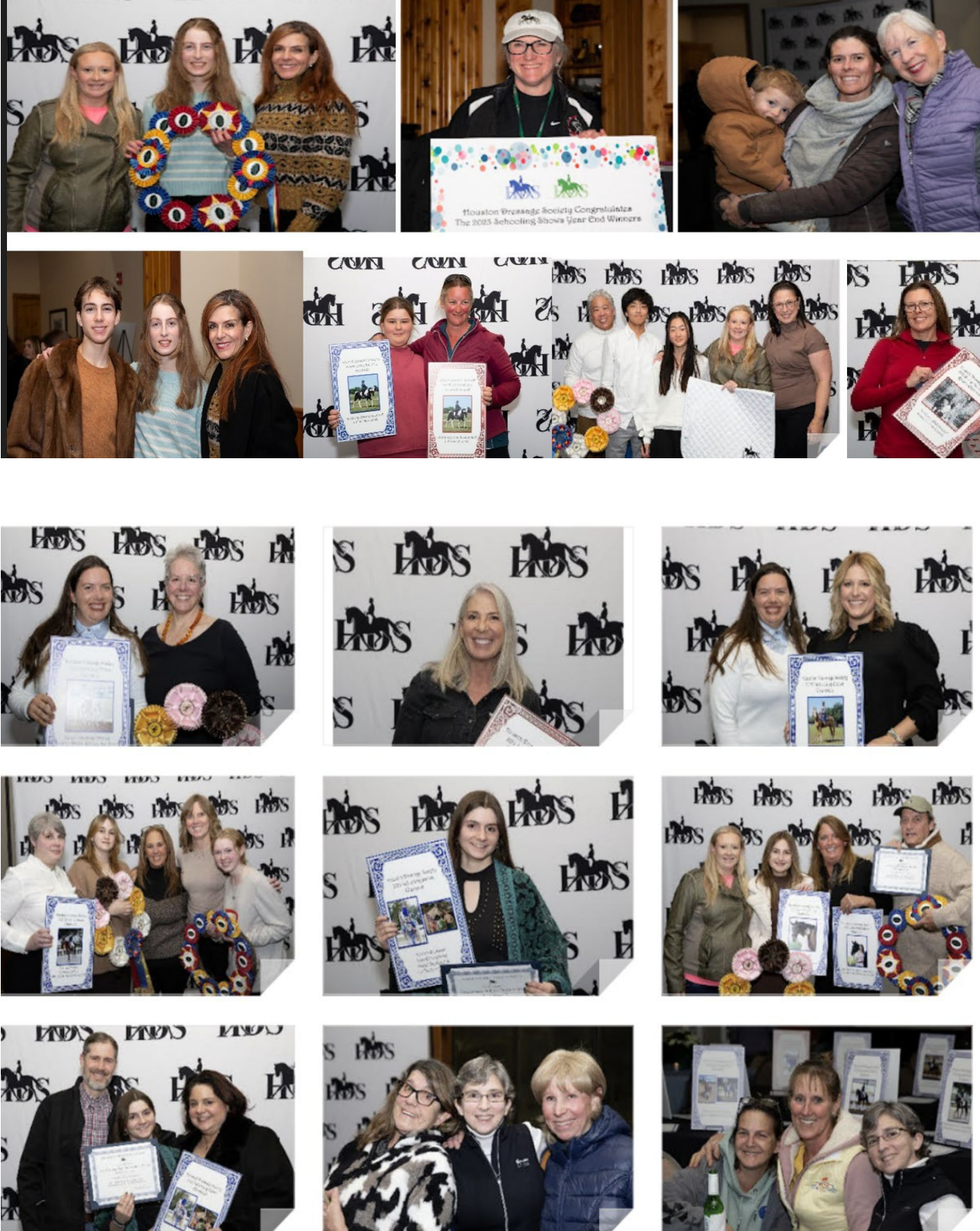
Adult Amateur Champion: Grace Atkins & You n Me Too
Junior/Young Rider Champion: Mila Paradz & Loaded Snapshot

Western Dressage

Adult Amateur Champion: Valerie Poulter & Sunny San Boon
Adult Amateur Reserve Champion: Melanie Miniek & Corona Koozie
Open Champion: Jessica McClary & Uneorked
Open Reserve Champion: Beeky Nesbitt & Magnums Finest Chie
Junior/Young Rider Champion: Bigail Steebek & Too Terrific to Hotrod
Junior/Young Rider Reserve Champion: Hailey Prinster & Shining Bueno Bar

winners!!! you know who you are..... [hds awards celebration](https://kristiescholten.com/2024-hds-awards-celebration) download
more pictures by clicking LINK BELOW.....

<https://kristiescholten.com/2024-hds-awards-banquet>



FIND MORE YEAR END AWARDS PICS ON <https://kristiescholten.com/2024-hds-awards-banquet>



WIN THESE AWARDS!!!



Champion Rec Show



Reserve Champ Rec Show.... Classy dressage whip



Champ Schooling Sho



Reserve Champ Schooling Show Saddle Pad

MINUTES FROM HDS BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 8, 2024

In atendance: Jane Holman, Sarah Denham, Diane Dougherty, Flo Edelman, Madison Smith, Fran Kehr, Trish Henderson, Ashley Shaw, Dawn Morris, Leslie Cummings

Called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Finance report: 1099's going out this weekend. We are looking for someone to prepare and file the HDS tax return. Terri will prepare most of the documentation but return needs to be filed electronically.

Recognized Shows: Winter Shows I and II in 3 weeks. All good to go. Three rings. Draft schedule for the CDI has been presented. Application to host the 2025 Regional Championships is due in February.

Schooling Shows: New form on the website is good! We will not be offering high point awards at each schooling show.

Sponsorship: Madison will be reaching out to Dover to see what they are willing to offer as a sponsor. Still looking for a CDI sponsor in the range of \$3,000 to \$5,000. We are hoping to secure a sponsor before the deadline for ordering discounted custom ribbons which is February 15.

Special Events: Awards Banquet is hereinafter known as the Awards Celebration! Tickets are available on the HDS website. Still need photos for some of the recipients. Recipients' and top volunteers' meals are comped.

Publications and Social Media: Fran's newsletter was well received and she is working on next issue. She will reach out to other trainers regarding including their business cards. Diane is sending Fran contact info for Open members. Each issue of the newsletter will live on the website so access is always available. Minutes of Board meetings will be posted in the newsletter.

Questions about the HDS Facebook group and page were raised. There is an HDS page and an HDS group. Flo is the moderator of the HDS Facebook page and Dawn is now the administrator of the HDS group. Dawn is in the process of changing the group name to "Houston Dressage Society Friends". The Board is considering requiring posts on the group to be approved by administrators. There is concern that information on the group may be misconstrued as official HDS.

Education: Exploring virtual vs in person events. Twinwood is hosting Sabine Schut-Kerry clinic in February. Sarah is working with Sarah Isham and Leslie Rohrer to include a separate educational event for HDS members. HDS plans to sponsor this event.

Awards: Ribbons are ordered for the year and we were able to take advantage of the 10 % discount. Breed Awards can be tedious due to the variety of requirements and communication with the breed organizations. We would like to continue offering breed awards as membership likes the awards and recognition.

Membership: Ended 2023 with 256 members. Current membership is 186. Typically see a big rush before Schooling Show Championships again next December. Updated paper membership form is available on the website. This is the only paper application form that will be accepted.

Volunteers: Still looking for a new chair. Fran to call out in the next newsletter which will include description of duties for volunteer chair as well as the other board positions.

Juniors: Still looking for a chair. Board members are reaching out to prospective candidates.

Unfinished/New Business: Jane is in the process of applying for PO Box for all USPS mail.

Meeting concluded at 8:48

UPCOMING EVENTS HERE AND YONDER!!!!

- **Windy Knoll Farm Winter Dressage Schooling Show** (HDS Recognized)Feb 10,2024
Rain/weather date Feb 24, 2024 www.windyknolldressage.com for prize list
- **Sabine Shut-Kery Clinic**.....Feb 16-17, 2024 Twinwood Equestrian Center
www.theequestriancenterattwinwood.com
- **HDS Q & A Session with Sabine**..... Feb 16, 2024 6:30pm go to HDS website for details

- **Cross-Training Clinic in Working Equitation** February 17 – 18, 2024 8am – 5pm
IXL Ranch, 13500 Paso Fino Rd, Cat Spring, TX 78933 Kate Murray-DelAguila EquusPS@outlook.com
 - **Haras Dressage 1 & 2 ...** Feb 17-18, 2024 www.harashacienda.com
 - **Kim Gentry Bit Fitting Clinic** the week of May 6th at Live Oaks Lane Farm.
Contact Cynthia Hall cymbioticeq@gmail.com
 - **Dallas Dressage** hosting Freestyle Seminar with Joan Darnell Feb 17, 2024
www.dallasdressageclub.wildapricot.org
 - **Haras Hacienda** hosting **Masterclass with Lisa Wilcox....** April 1-2, 2024
 - **Renee Waters, County Saddlery Rep from FL** joining **Lisa** April 1-2, 2024
-
- **Region 9 Omnibus**

Thank you to everyone who advertised in the 2024 Omnibus. The 2024 books are [available for download](#) here. Order hard copies [of your own here](#)

RESULTS OF HDS WINTER DRESSAGE 1 & 2M JAN 20-21

https://www.showsecretary.com/rs.asp?Show_ID=1044

HDS Winter Show I High Score Awards						
Training-Fourth						
Champion	70	2023 USEF TRAINING LEVEL, TEST 1	JR/YR	339	QUENTIN	SILVIA SCHWARTZ
Reserve	68.35	2022 FEI CHILDREN TEAM TEST	JR/YR	383	SE BOMBOM	ALYSSA J LONGORIA
Champion	74	2023 USEF TRAINING LEVEL, TEST 3	Amateur	105	SPLENDIDO	VICTORIA REEDER
Reserve	70.286	2023 USEF SECOND LEVEL, TEST 1	Amateur	107	NOBLE DAV	JENNIFER DEAVER
Champion	72.875	2023 USEF THIRD LEVEL, TEST 3	Open	331	MONTY	CARLY TAYLOR-SMITH
Reserve	70.625	2023 USEF THIRD LEVEL, TEST 3	Open	393	NORTE DC	ANTONIO GARCIA ROLDAN
FEI						
Champion	69.265	2022 FEI PRIX ST. GEORGES	Open	392	JOANINHA II SERNADINHA	ANTONIO GARCIA ROLDAN
Reserve	67.206	2022 FEI PRIX ST. GEORGES	Open	376	FRAGGLE ROCK	CHRISTY RAISBECK
Champion	66.618	2022 FEI PRIX ST. GEORGES	Amateur	110	DANTE SPH	NICOLE ACOSTA
Reserve	61.324	2022 FEI INTERMEDIATE I	Amateur	103	SIR ALEXANDER	KACIE LINEGAR
Champion	65.294	2022 FEI PRIX ST. GEORGES	JR/YR	102	NIRVANA-H	ISABELLA FIELDER
Reserve	65.221	NAYC 2022 FEI YOUNG RIDER TEAM TEST	JR/YR	398	ROQUEFORT	MADISON MANIS
Freestyle						
Champion	75.425	FEI INTERMEDIATE I FREESTYLE	Open	358	ANTE PORTAS	CARLY TAYLOR-SMITH
Champion	74.833	2023 USDF FIRST LEVEL FREESTYLE	Open	343	EPIC DREAM	LISA BLACKMON
Reserve	67.184	2023 USDF SECOND LEVEL FREESTYLE	Open	356	PEACHES	CHRISTINE MCCARTER
Champion	73.694	2023 USDF FIRST LEVEL FREESTYLE	Amateur	342	SIR DONNERMARK	MYSTERE MOYES
Reserve	65.425	2023 USDF THIRD LEVEL FREESTYLE	Amateur	159	MISS POW WOW	JILLIAN BOWMAN
Champion		NAYC FEI JUNIOR FREESTYLE	JR/YR	354	WALK OF FAME	ALYSSA J LONGORIA
Pony						
Champion	63.846	2023 USEF TRAINING LEVEL, TEST 1	Pony	389	BUBBA BAILEY	DEN BURDETTE
Reserve	62.361	2023 USEF FIRST LEVEL, TEST 3	Pony	113	WANELO	HEATHER DALLAM

DRESSAGE

Reprinted with the approval and generosity of Equestrian Life Digital Magazine

Australia's leading Equestrian Publication

Issue 71, October 2021

www.equestrianlife.com.au

SABINE & SANCEO, A PAIR OF MIND READERS

WRITTEN BY ADELE SEVERS / INTERVIEW BY ROGER
FITZHARDING

Sabine Schut-Kery put her name on the international dressage map when she and Sanceo achieved three personal best scores in Tokyo to help bring home a team silver medal for the USA. While her background in exhibition and stage show riding is a little different to the average dressage rider, this rich tapestry of experience is what led her to that moment in the spotlight.



Sabine and Sanceo helped Team USE secure a silver medal in Tokyo. © FEI/Shannon Brinkman

There were many beautiful horse and rider combinations at the Tokyo Olympics, but one that caught the attention of many was the American partnership of Sabine Schut-Kery and the 15-year-old stallion Sanceo.

Unknown to many outside the States, the pair were part of the USA's silver medal winning team and scored 78.416% in the Grand Prix for seventh place, 81.596% in the Special for third, and 84.3% in the Freestyle for fifth. All three scores topped their previous personal bests of 75.022%, 77.468% and 78.145% across the three respective tests. It's one thing to achieve personal bests at an Olympics; it's another to exceed those personal bests by such impressive margins!

"I could definitely say we were on. It was definitely a special show," says Sabine, reflecting on the achievement. The 53-year-old explains that since stepping up to Big Tour level with Sanceo at the beginning of 2018, it's been a gradual progression where they've built from one show to the next.

"I now know what needs to be done in the ring to pull it all together. Before, I was missing that a little bit... I was always trying to ride mistake-free, but hadn't figured out how to ask for more. I'm getting to the point now where we've had enough mileage in the competition arena and it's possible to start polishing our performance."

Speaking specifically about the stallion's performances in Tokyo, Sabine explains that Sanceo is a very sensitive and soft horse in general, but at the Games he had that extra little spark. "We wanted him to peak there and I think that just worked out so beautifully. What contributed to that, I think, were the two weeks' quarantine at Aachen and then a week in Tokyo, just having the eyes on the ground from my coach Christine Traurig every single day. "He felt amazing [during competition]. He felt really zoned in to me; the signals were so subtle, I literally felt like we were speaking the same language. That's how direct it was. Sometimes these signals can be a little delayed or sometimes you need to say something a little more or repeated, but at Tokyo it was just very direct. I felt like I was speaking horse language."



Performing a 'ride and drive' in Germany.

FROM THE BEGINNING

Many who watched Sabine and Sanceo's breath-taking performances at Tokyo were left wondering who they were and where they had come from. The truth is their success at Tokyo was anything but a fluke. Sabine's equestrian history is rich and varied; a colourful tapestry of experience that led to the beautiful performances we saw at the Games.

Born and raised in Krefeld, Germany, Sabine explains that horses were an integral part of her childhood. Her parents were not horsey, however, when her older sister took up riding, Sabine tagged along. In the end her sister didn't stick with it — although she still loves horses — but for Sabine, they have remained a part of her life ever since.

Riding her bike to the local barn, Sabine spent countless hours brushing horses and cleaning stalls. "I literally just went home to sleep and go to school — the rest of my time was spent with the horses," she recalls, explaining that in Germany, horses are very much a lifestyle and young riders are encouraged to gain a broad range of experience.

Just when Sabine was becoming too tall for the ponies, an opportunity arose at the barn to ride Friesian horses for a gentleman who was the first to import the breed from Holland. "In Germany, nobody knew Friesian horses. The owner wanted to promote the breed as an all-rounder through exhibitions and horse fairs." Sabine explains the horses were trained in dressage and driving, and to make it entertaining they also taught the horses how to bow, lie down, sit up and rear on command. She worked with the Friesians between the ages about 14 and 18, travelling for exhibitions and competitions. "I learnt how to ride side-saddle, drive four-in-hand, and also how to ride one horse and drive one in front! It was just a blast!" she recalls. Always fascinated with learning but without much financial support, Sabine set about figuring out how she could take lessons and progress her skills as a trainer. "I decided to do a three-year government-approved apprenticeship to become a Bereiter (a long-term working student position that allows you to work towards becoming a professional rider)." Sabine completed her Bereiter with renowned German dressage trainer Jean -9- Bemelmans, where she says that although she learnt a lot, she realized that she wasn't ready to focus solely on the one sport.

Yearning to regain the variety that she had experienced working with the Friesian horses, she returned to her friends who were still performing exhibitions. “We started taking those little exhibitions to bigger places, touring through Europe — and included Lipizzaners from Lipiza, as well as our Friesians.”

While it was great fun, Sabine says they were always very strict that the dressage work was correct. “We didn’t do it for the sake of riding in front of a crowd, there was more of a purpose; we really wanted to do a good job. I think that’s really important when you work a little bit in entertainment, that it doesn’t just become a moment in the spotlight.

“We had horses that performed airs above the ground. We had horses and people that would do trick riding or jousting, chariot driving, and then dressage and side-saddle,” says Sabine, explaining how the exhibition riding evolved to a full-on stage show in its own right that showcased horses and their relationship with humans through the ages. Sabine had various roles in the show, from riding side-saddle as a double for a princess, to performing as part of the dressage quadrille — and many parts in between.

It was during her time working with this show that Sabine met her husband, Kristian Kery. Born in Hungary, he was a horseman from a young age as well and now works in the film industry as a stuntman. Coming from Europe as a child, he was educated in jumping and dressage like Sabine and to this day he still helps her with her horses in training — even riding Sanceo when Sabine is out of town. “It’s good that he loves horses too, otherwise he probably would say I’m spending too much time with them!”



Performing with a Friesian as part of an exhibition.

TO THE STATES

Sabine's move to the United States came about through the sale of the first horse she actually owned — a Friesian that she produced close to Grand Prix level and also trained to perform a variety of tricks. Jim Mosebrook in Texas bought him from a video, and asked Sabine to come over and give him some lessons on how to get the horse to perform.

"I went over and showed him all these tricks, and he was just so blown away and offered me a job on the spot," says Sabine. And so in 1998, Sabine and Kristian moved to the USA to work at Proud Meadows.

"Jim fell in love with the Friesian breed and wanted to promote them in the United States, and so I almost relived the same role again," explains Sabine about her first job in the USA. "We went all over the country. My first demonstration was in Madison Square Garden, and I was on the *Today Show*. It was just an amazing experience." Sabine explains that her new boss also became fascinated with Andalusians and Lusitanos, and so she worked with those breeds again as well in the States.

During her time in Texas she'd been allowed to fly her trainer, Jan Nivelle, out every year for 10 days so she could continue learning and developing as a dressage rider. Keen to always test her training against the best, Sabine travelled when possible to the equestrian mecca of Wellington, Florida, to compete the Friesians.

In 2005, Sabine "got a little itch again", explaining that this time her curiosity turned to Warmbloods. "My husband had work in the film industry in Los Angeles, and I visited him and absolutely fell in love with California. And that's how I started working with my current coach, Christine Traurig."

And so Sabine moved to California and started working with a new breed; her third Warmblood project was Sanceo.



Sabine and Jorrit, her Friesian she sold to Jim Mosebrook in Texas.

FINDING SANCEO

Alice Womble and Mike Heitman lived in Texas and often came to watch Sabine's exhibition rides when they were in her home state. "Alice would always come over afterwards to chat, and she's just this gracious lady who I feel appreciated my riding and always complimented on the softness and the relationship I had with a horse.

"The minute I moved to California and was able to train other people's horses, she called me and asked me if I would train her stallion. He was a little bit older and a little bit full of himself. He would rear, but not on command. When he reared I was like, 'Okay, you think you can intimidate me? Just bring it on, because I did this for a living'. But he was so talented... And he started walking on two legs. I opened a can of worms!" laughs Sabine. Despite that little hiccup, Sabine did get Alice's stallion on side and he was quite successful.

"And then Alice said one day, 'I want to see what you can do with a horse that you have from the beginning that nobody else has ridden before!'" And so Sabine went to Europe to find a horse, on the proviso that it "must be pretty".

She went for a week, and hadn't found anything until she saw the last horse on the trip — a three-year-old by Sam Remo (Sandro Hit x Donnerhall) and with jumping lines on the dam side, being out of a Ramiro's Son II mare. "I just fell in love with him, not just emotionally, but at just under three he blew my mind at how he could go on a 20 metre circle, on a lunge line, in the same rhythm... he had that push power that he was so committed to without being flighty and running. It was just like an older horse. He had three beautiful gaits, and luckily he was beautiful. So check mark on that!"

Sabine explains the problem was that he was only three times under saddle and she was "too chicken to get on" — but she wanted to see what he felt like to ride before making the call and also knew Alice and Mike would want to see him. Three weeks later, they went back together.

"I rode him and he felt the same as he looked; just this amazing commitment of forwardness with the right balance already at that age. He was forward but not running, just that beautiful, steady rhythm with all this energy coming to the reins in a very balanced way." Sabine only rode him for five minutes, but she knew he was the one. And so Sanceo returned with them to the States. "We didn't know where he would take us. We were hoping, but you just don't know until they're a little bit older".

Sabine carrying the flag in Las Vegas Sanceo as a 6 yr old at the World Y H Champs. in Verden.



EARLY TALENT

Sabine explains that in the US there is a program designed to take young horses through the grades and eventually on to Grand Prix — and then hopefully representing the USA at major championships. The program provides a tremendous amount of support both financially and also in terms of access to excellent coaching.

“Young horse classes are hard, because you have to be ready at a certain time,” explains Sabine, who had agreed with Sanceo’s owners that they were never going to put the horse on a time schedule. That being said, Sanceo ticked every box with ease as he went, breezing through the US program with flying colours.

“He won the Futurity class in California as a four-year-old, and then as a five and six-year-old he qualified for [the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in] Verden. Sanceo’s owners and I decided not to take him as a five-year-old because he was a little immature; we instead took him to the national championships where he came fourth. He was quite spooky back then. Then as a six-year-old we took him to Verden; he was not super competitive but we had a couple of good rounds there and it was a good experience.

“They didn’t have seven-year-old classes at the time, so next we did the national championships in the Developing Prix St Georges, which he won with a 78%. From that, we jumped into the CDI Small Tour. On the Florida circuit he won every show we entered that year and had the highest scores. We then went to Europe to compete, and made the US team for the Pan American Games in Toronto, competing Small Tour. So we were on the gold medal winning team there. And then we went on to Grand Prix.”

The pair’s first CDI Grand Prix was at the beginning of 2018, and from there it was about steadily becoming consolidated at the level and gradually improving scores — a trajectory that still seems to be on the rise if their results at Tokyo are anything to go by.

Sabine and Sanceo leave the arena in Tokyo. © FEI/Christophe Taniere



It's a tool, to really read and listen to the minds of horses.”

THE PRESENT

When Sabine first moved to California, she got lucky and found a place at a “very, very beautiful barn” called El Campeon Farms, where she stayed for 12 years. “Last yeaays curious about different parts of the country. It was a nice opportunity... so why not?”

Sabine rides Sanceo three to four times a week, and says there is one part of his training in particular that is non-negotiable. “I can tell you religiously — and people laugh at me because I sometimes put my timer on it — I walk him for 15 to 20 minutes before starting work. This horse has never seen a walking machine; I do the walking. And then my actual workout is never more than 30 minutes. If I don't get something done, tomorrow's another day. I rather work a shorter session and a little bit more consecutively, rather than a longer session and then a day off.

“I rarely ride him in a competition frame. I ride him a little rounder, but I have to pay attention because round is not *always* round; he can look like he's round, but I have learned from my fantastic coach, Christine, to really pay attention to what *round* really means. There's so much more to it than just looking in the mirror... he's always going to be on the bit, but really truly round, there are a few more ingredients that come with that. In particular with Sanceo, I'm a huge fan of a rounder training frame... but not round on the forehand. Even if he's in a lower frame, he still has to be in the right balance.”

Sabine believes that variety in training is very important. Sanceo goes on the aqua treadmill at least twice a week, and he does cross training with poles. Trail riding is also part of Sanceo's schedule, although now in Napa with the current drought, the trails have become very dry — to the point where Sabine explains they can be quite slippery. “What I actually do is hand walk him a lot on the trail, and I also at the same time have a little bit of a workout and then I'm not worried about him slipping with me on his back.”

Following Tokyo, Sanceo is currently having a bit of downtime and also breeding. Up until this point, Alice and Mike have allowed the stallion to be focused on competing rather than stud duties — and so he's yet to have any progeny on the ground. "He's having some fun right now, and then from January to March we will go to Florida to compete [for the Global Dressage Festival]."

ALWAYS LEARNING

For Sabine, her journey with horses is ongoing. "I just love it; I love learning. And that's what's so beautiful with dressage, the learning doesn't end."

One might think that at an Olympic Games, an athlete is purely focused on themselves and their own performance — however, Sabine never gives up an opportunity to learn and be inspired by those around her.

"I watched Catherine Dufour's Grand Prix test and it really inspired me. It made me think to take it slow — and slow doesn't mean inactive, it's precision, and each short side is there to prepare for your next diagonal or next centreline. And her ride just put that image in my mind ahead of my test; to take my time, and make it graceful yet powerful. And for the Special, it was Carl Hester's test [that gave inspiration]."

"Another time I watched Charlotte Dujardin warm up. I remember walking away being so inspired and saying to my coach, 'That girl can ride pirouettes; that's my vision of pirouettes!' That's what my inspiration was from her riding."

Although well versed in training tricks, driving and riding dressage among other things, Sabine says she never did get to train in the art of liberty work — but it's something she's always been interested in. When she was travelling to exhibitions and fairs, she recalls performing at many of the same events as renowned French liberty trainer, Lorenzo. "Oh my God, we had a crush on him!" she laughs.

Learning how to train horses at liberty is something Sabine would love to explore further one day under professional guidance, although for now she's happy practising a little bit at home: "We have a nice little closed-in arena where I can let Sanceo loose... so I try my own little bit of liberty work!"



The winning podium at Tokyo; Germany Gold, USA Silver and Great Britain Bronze. © FEI/EFE/Kai Försterling

FROM EXHIBITIONS TO TOKYO

Following her incredible performances in Tokyo, Sabine says that she's now starting to realise how her varied background with horses has shaped her to become the horsewoman she is nowadays.

"I think as you get older you realize things that you just naturally do when you're younger. Whenever I was training horses for exhibitions, I really tried to think about the technical aspects of how to train a horse, individually with their bodies, all the movements — but then a huge part is that you also train the interior, the soul... the temperament and mind. That's a huge thing for me.

"The exhibitions didn't require riding from letter to letter. We had a certain choreography, but it's free spirited. You have to show certain movements, but you can react and make decisions based on what kind of horse you have in the moment. I had, for example, a Friesian that wasn't the best in the piaffe. I was in the ring with other horses, so when another horse did something and the crowd would clap, it would make this Friesian a little bit excited; that's when I would do my piaffe. I learnt a lot from riding through feel and reading my horse; reading when he's ready, or when he feels a certain way.

"It's a tool, to really read and listen to the minds of horses. If they're tense, you need to back off in a way that you still stay in the driver's seat and still have control, but you lighten up a little bit and you're not adding to the tension. And then vice versa, that you also can push a little bit when you have to, but in an encouraging way and not in a bossing them around way.

“I also love the amount of *throughness* you have to have when you have to do a piaffe at C like in a dressage test. That also is a huge element of the training, how much your horse is through; that your aids are coming through and being heard in the moment. So it’s the combination [of riding with feel and developing thoroughness] that I really appreciate.”

Sabine has worked with so many different breeds throughout her career, from Friesians and Spanish horses to Warmbloods. “Friesians are known to be the opposite from hot. And then Spanish horses, and now Sanceo, are a little hotter. That is so beautiful for me; I love to read these different types.” Sabine explains that when it comes down to it, dressage is simply training — and so with different breeds, you find different ways to train them and allow them to reach their potential.

SANCEO’S SOUL

Sabine clearly has a special relationship with the stallion that has taken her to an Olympic silver medal. When talking about what it is that makes Sanceo special, she explains that besides being athletic and physically talented — all horses at the elite level have those attributes — it’s his beautiful soul that sets him apart.

“He is such a good guy. It’s almost like he has antennas; he just always listens, and listens in such a fine way you can have such sophisticated communication with him, which is so interesting and funny.”

Riding at Tokyo, that deep connection was evident where Sabine appeared almost oblivious during her tests to those watching — including the judges — until that final halt where she’d return to reality. “I couldn’t tell you who is around the ring [when competing Sanceo] because it’s so interesting to communicate with that horse. He’s sensitive... even in Tokyo when we came into the ring, he spooked a little bit. But when you start riding him, and you go down the centreline, he just zones in and at that point I feel like it’s just him and I.” **EQ**

This article was produced from Roger Fitzhardinge’s interview with Sabine Schut-Kery following her success at the Tokyo Olympics.

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE TO READ:

[Starlite Shines at Brisbane CDN – Equestrian Life, October 2021](#)

- **Share this:**
- twitter.com/equestrian_life
- facebook.com/EquestrianLifeAustralia
- instagram.com/equestrianlifeaustralia

Equestrian life

FEATURED BARN.....TEN METER CIRCLE FARM ...Erika-West/Whit Watkins

Ten Metre Circle home of Erika-West Dressage, Whit Watkins Dressage and Sierra Kahler Dressage. Located on roughly 50 rolling acres in Willis, TX. Each horse's physical and mental wellbeing comes first as we always strive for improvement while supporting each other as family.



The name of Ten Metre Circle came from the late Elaine Lenk who first made this a horse property in the 90's. Elaine was a boutique warmblood breeder, avid horse woman and brilliant human. Erika (Now Erika-West Danque Nece) started horses for Elaine when she was a teenager. By 2008, Erika's freelance training business had expanded to where she was looking to manage her own farm. In the fall of 2008, Elaine and her husband Bob had moved away and Elaine wanted this to stay as a horse facility rather than see it go to developers so she offered Erika the opportunity to lease Ten Metre Circle "until you can build your business up enough to buy it". Erika leapt at the opportunity and moved in shortly thereafter with her own three horses and a few training horses. Having a place to finally call home gave Erika the ability to have more long-term training horses and students rather than mostly starting young horses/ponies and retraining problem horses. She quickly became a successful regular in the open FEI classes on client horses as well as her own with many students successfully spreading their wings up the levels both locally and nationally. By March of 2014, Erika (in partnership with her brother Hunter Danque) purchased the farm from Bob Lenk. In 2017, Erika and Hunter did a significant farm improvement/expansion including a new barn, additional sheds, full tackroom renovations, new arena footing, and completely redoing all the fencing. Ten Metre Circle is now home to 45-50 happy horses of all breeds and ages, from youngsters to Grand Prix horses still going strong well into their 20's.



Erika started riding in the 90's with the principles of natural horsemanship which grew into a passion for classical dressage, believing what's right for the horse can still be competitive. Erika's first dressage lesson was with Nancy Hinz followed by 4 ½ years as a working student with Lurena Bell, extensive lessons with Charles DeKunffy, Whit Watkins, Jan Ebeling, and Conrad Schumacher. Erika most recently started working with Charlotte Bredahl to continue her training and education. Erika has attended the YDHTS symposium for many years, regularly attends the FEI trainers conference, and lives a life defined by openly seeking knowledge and growth. She has successfully developed horses of numerous breeds to the FEI and GP personally and with students aboard. Erika is a USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze medalist. She is passionate about riding, teaching, and training horsemanship and Classical Dressage with more than 25 years of experience.

Erika's goal is to help every rider and horse achieve their maximum potential with a vibrant and dynamic link. Erika offers lessons to students from Intro to FEI level. She is happy to coach riders with modest goals, such as improving general horsemanship, but also takes great joy in sharing the journey with the more ambitious, with many of Erika's students qualifying for GAIG and SWDC Region 9 Championships and even the prestigious US Dressage Finals. Several of Erika's students have progressed through the FEI under her assistance, including earning their Bronze and Silver Medals and Freestyle Bars with several working on their Gold.



After several years of teaching clinics here, Whit Watkins officially moved to Ten Metre Circle in 2017. Whit is a USDF Diamond award recipient, Gold, Silver and Bronze medalist of distinction who specializes in Classical Dressage from a German perspective with over a year of training with Hubertus Schmidt overseas. She has numerous awards on many horses at all levels and has helped many riders (Including Erika) achieve their medals all the way to Gold. She is available for lessons at Ten Metre Circle and clinics.

Sierra Kahler is a USDF Silver and Bronze medalist who began her journey in the dressage world with Erika as a working student in 2015. She is a lifelong horsewoman, with a background in the USPC and natural horsemanship. She has a deep love for helping horses and humans alike learn how to grow in their ability to emotionally regulate and therefore develop the necessary skills to lead happy, connected lives. From young mustangs to warmblood schoolmasters, Sierra does not discriminate. She always has and continues to enjoy working with a wide variety of breeds, ages, and personalities.

Along with practicing in a traditional dressage environment, Sierra is trained as an Equine Professional through the Natural Lifemanship model and has experience working with a wide variety of horses and people. Along with her work as a trainer and EP. In her downtime she enjoys spending time with her two Trakehners and BLM Mustang. Currently, Sierra is available for beginner dressage lessons and has limited availability for training horses.

Our trainers (and students) work as a team supporting each other while sharing knowledge and skills.



Adequan/USDF FEI-Level Trainers Conference

Reported by Kristin Stringer

January 15 and 16, 2024 at Mary Anne McPhail's gorgeous High Meadow Farm in Loxahatchee, Florida. The conference, was well attended with over 300 auditors from all over the country. Region 9 was well represented with more than 50 trainers present, many of whom are HDS members. Presenters Sabine Schut-Kery and Sven Rotherberger worked with 8 FEI riders. Worth noting that 7 of the riders were top international professionals, and one rider, Bonnie Canter, (now a Florida resident, but formally from Hempstead) was the only amateur rider in the clinic. All of Bonnie's friends from Region 9 were so proud of how well she rode.

All in all it was a wonderful experience, and a terrific clinic. So many beautiful horses and riders!! So much amazing information..... here is some out takes from my notes:

- forward is a lifestyle the horse has to walk on his own
 - don't do the job for the horse
 - lots of breaks are important
 - lots of work in the walk, problem solve in the walk
 - every corner is important, every corner is a volte
 - develop straightness with circles
 - control the poll with your leg
 - if the horse is not internally relaxed they can not take instruction or training
 - build trust by rewarding good effort
 - leg yields help with connection from the leg to the seat to the hand
 - don't sit behind the vertical, it drives the horses back down
 - ride each exercise for an 8, if you ride for a 6 the exercise does not have therapeutic benefit
 - good horses take good trainers and owners who are willing to give the horse time to learn
- The points above made by Sabine and Sven, were the theme for the conference and created an extraordinary learning environment!!!



Just a few from Reg 9 that we could round peeps, up for a picture....
Fore



Cynthia Hall got a few more along with Sven, Sabine, & Lilo

Trip to the USDF Trainers Conference!

by Ruby Lewis (Junior Rider from Region 9)

Circle 3 Dressage and Horsemanship at Forreal Farm (www.forrealfarm.com)

The last three days have been one of my favorite experiences of all time! I had a fantastic opportunity to experience the USDF Trainers Conference as a volunteer. I volunteered along the side of Lendon Gray's Winter Intensive Training (WIT) kids and my sister, Zoe (of course!). I had a **BLAST** meeting and volunteered with the WIT kids. Even as a volunteer, I was still able to watch most of the conference.

I learned so much listening to Sabine Schut-Kery and Sven Rothenberger coach super riders and amazingly talented well-trained horses. What struck me the most is how important the basics are to achieve the best results. The basics are forward, rhythmical, supple, and straight horses ridden in elastic contact. They also emphasized the importance of the rider's position to execute the aids to achieve the basics.

Another highlight for me was listening to all the speakers at Lendon Gray's evening panel discussion about coaching at competitions. One of the speakers was my mom, Marsha Lewis! I loved the idea of journaling about your warm-ups at the show to help you figure out what works and what doesn't at the competition and it also helps make you confident and independent in case your coach has conflicts and can't be there the entire warm-up.

Finally, on the last day, we said goodbye to all the WIT kids and Lendon. One of my friends allowed me to ride her incredible horse which is schooling all the Grand Prix movements! It was such a great experience and I learned so much! I didn't want to come back to Texas (especially the cold)!



2024 HDS Board Members

<i>President</i>	<i>Jane Holman</i>
<i>Vice Pres</i>	<i>Angel Gun</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Jessica Jemison</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Terri Harlan</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Diane Dougherty</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>Sarah Denham</i>
<i>Rec Shows</i>	<i>Angel Gun</i>
<i>Schooling</i>	<i>Dawn Morris</i>
<i>Volunteers</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Awards</i>	<i>Trish Henderson</i>
<i>Juniors</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Special Events</i>	<i>Ashley Shaw</i>
<i>Sponsorships/Ads</i>	<i>Madison Taylor Smith</i>
<i>Publications/Media</i>	<i>Fran Kehr</i>
<i>Historian</i>	<i>Vacant</i>

Help Wanted!!! 3 vacant Board positions!! Be part of the team.... We need a Junior Rep, Historian and Volunteer Coordinator!!!

General Information...click website

[HOUSTON](#)
[Dressage Society](#)

Become a Member

[Join HDS](#)

Follow HDS on

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/HoustonDressageSociety>



CLASSIFIED ADS

Boarding-Training-Lessons:

- Magnolia, Tx contact Sandra Lindenberg 14' X 14' stalls + turnout sandra_dressage@yahoo.com
- Magnolia, Tx Windy Knoll Farm <https://www.windyknollfarm.com> contact Fran franwkf@gmail.com

Tack For Sale:

Dressage Saddles for Sale....**Marschall Spezial II** medium tree 17.5" seat \$650; **Crosby** medium tree 17.5" seat \$650 **Schleese** wide tree 18" seat \$1200. Contact Sandy Venneman vennemansandy@gmail.com

Horses for Sale:

- 5 horses directly from breeder, Yeguada Santa Elena (PRE's) contact Sandra Lindenburg sandra_dressage@yahoo.com

Misc for Sale:

- Pixem Robotic Camera, complete system, like new \$800 contact Catherine Hall cmh@satx.rr.com 830-743-7905



Offering Full Legal Services to
the Equine Industry in Texas

Business formation, contracts,
litigation, USEF & breed
organization disputes

Equine Law
Rebecca Pennington
www.EquineLawyer.net

EDWARDS DE MATA | LAW
www.edwardsdematalaw.com
832.477.8089

Malinda Mata

Kiwi Performance Horses

*Lessons, Training, Showing,
Clinics*

*Ranch Horse, Western/English Dressage,
Reining, All-round breed showing*



832 574 3884

Pinehurst, TX

**Stuff to put in Classified?? Business card ads free for HDS member?? Events to announce??
Send to me!!!! franwkf@gmail.com**

Check out the sport of Working Equitation – a fun way to cross-train your horse!

Working equitation is a fun and exciting sport which seamlessly blends the disciplines of dressage and obstacle negotiation into a captivating and challenging event. Originating in Southern Europe, this unique sport has gained international recognition for its ability to showcase the versatility, athleticism, and precision of both horse and rider.



Working Equitation finds its roots in the practical tasks required of working riders on farms and ranches. In the Iberian Peninsula, it was essential for riders to demonstrate their horsemanship while performing everyday tasks such as herding cattle, navigating obstacles, and showcasing the horse's responsiveness to rider commands. Over time, these tasks evolved into a structured and competitive sport that highlights the harmony between horse and rider.

This "triathlon of equestrian sports" seamlessly blends the disciplines of dressage, obstacle negotiation, and speed into an exciting competition. The first phase of Working Equitation is dressage. Like traditional dressage, riders are required to perform a set of prescribed movements that showcase the horse's suppleness, balance, and obedience. The goal is to demonstrate a harmonious partnership between horse and rider, combining elegance with functionality.

The second phase, ease of handling, focuses on navigating a series of obstacles with skill and precision. The course typically includes gates, bridges, and other challenges that test the agility and responsiveness of the horse. Riders are judged on their ability to negotiate the obstacles accurately and efficiently. This phase highlights the horse's ability to respond promptly to the rider's cues and the rider's effective communication with the horse.

The third and final phase is the speed test. The emphasis here is on speed and efficiency, as riders aim to complete the course in the shortest amount of time while correctly completing the obstacles. This phase reflects the practical skills required in working horses and showcases the horse's versatility.

Working Equitation offers a fun cross-training opportunity for other equestrian disciplines to develop improved coordination, a better work ethic, and increased bravery in new environments while decreasing monotony and increasing injury prevention by improved fitness. The horses develop better suppleness and balance through focus on bending to accurately complete obstacles. Working Equitation provides a way to have fun while you work on improving your horsemanship and partnership with your horse.

We invite you to give Working Equitation a try and see why so many people and equines love it! Come see what it is all about at an **upcoming clinic and practice show February 17 -18 with a Senior "S" Judge and Master Level competitor**. For information about upcoming clinics in the Houston area, contact Kate Del Aguila at EquusPS@outlook.com.

Miscellaneous important information!!!!

- **HDS looking for a sponsor...**

Title Sponsor Needed for the Region 9 CDI/HDS Spring Show

The CDI/HDS Spring Show is open for a name in title sponsor. Benefits include identification in all publications as the "Big Impressive Barn" CDI*2 and HDS Spring Classic I & II...", embroidered logo coolers for champions, all the benefits of a platinum plus sponsors (large stalls, parking, etc) and signage at all indoor arenas and special functions like cocktail parties, etc.. Looking for \$5,000 but will take best offer. Thanks !!!

Email Jane by March 2.

janeintheneck@aol.com

- **SWDC Important News**

Each year SWDC keeps a show calendar on our website www.swdressage.org. **Any show listed on the calendar is a qualifying show for the fall championship show. Competitors should always check to make sure the shows they are entering are recognized by SWDC for the ride to count as a qualifying ride for SWDC.** When competitors enter a show they can identify whether they want the score to count for Pony, Open, Amateur, or Junior. They do not have to enter the same class for it to count. In the past we have had Adult Amateurs win in our Open division. Competitors can ride in a Junior class to be a qualifier for a pony championship class. Rides must be identified and paid for before the ride.

Shows can look at the calendar to make sure their show is recognized and get their recognition number. If a show pays their recognition fee before the end of January their fee is cheaper. Show applications are available on the SWDC website.

—Sarah Jane Martin, Chairman of SWDC

- **Deadlines Approaching: Dates You Need to Know for 2024**

Mark your calendars! As we enter 2024 with excitement and giddy for the equestrian opportunities ahead of us, we want to make sure you don't miss out on any of the education, competition, or achievement programs that USDF offers nationwide. Check out our quick and easy reference guide to the [Deadlines Approaching](#) on *YourDressage*.

- **PULL UP YOUR REGION 9 NEWSLETTER!!**

<https://www.usdfregion9.org/region-9-news/>

-

Adult Amateurs in region 9! Funding Opportunity

Note the 3/1 due date for The Dressage Foundation's Region 9 Evie Tumlin Fund for AA riders. Want \$\$\$ help???? Apply!! Also, HDS has The Bushager Grant. No one applied.... Do it.



Your TDF Update: January 2024

Happy New Year from The Dressage Foundation! This is the year of TDF's 35th Anniversary and we look forward to celebrating with you throughout the year. Don't forget that as you set your goals for 2024, TDF may have [grants available](#) for your dressage education! Cheers to a wonderful year ahead!

Lendon Gray Named Chairman of TDF's Board of Directors

At our recent meeting of the Board of Directors, Lendon Gray was selected as the new Chairman of the Board to begin in January 2024.

Lendon first joined TDF's Board in 2013 and has served as Vice Chairman and President, in addition to serving on numerous committees.

We extend great appreciation to Maryal Barnett as she steps down as Chairman. Maryal served in this role from 2015-2023, in addition to previously serving as Vice Chairman, Vice President, and on various committees. Maryal's extensive history with TDF is unmatched, and we are grateful that Maryal will remain on the Board of Directors.



Lendon Gray

Congratulations to Katherine Poulin (OH) and Cariñoso CA, the first recipients of our new \$2,500 Pure Spanish Horse/Pura Raza Española (P.R.E.) Fund Grant!

Katherine is a USDF bronze, silver, and gold medalist with distinction and a USDF Certified Instructor. Katherine will use the grant funding to train Gayle Rusk's nine-year-old P.R.E. gelding, Cariñoso CA, with Stacey Hastings and Christoph Hess. Cariñoso CA was the 2023 International Andalusian and Lusitano Horse Association Prix St. Georges Horse of the Year.

Katherine said, "It is a huge honor to receive this grant that promotes the P.R.E. breed. My sincere thank you to the donors of TDF for their generosity toward and patronage of the beautiful and challenging discipline of dressage."

[Learn More about the P.R.E. Fund](#)



Photo by Susan J Stickle

Please Give Today!

From beginners to Olympic hopefuls to the senior riders of our sport, your donation to TDF will fuel the dreams of dressage riders across the country.



[Make a Donation](#)



A Love Story for the Ages

With a combined age of 100 years, we welcome the final Team from 2023 to the Century Club--Sherry DeVries Pawlenko and Playtime from North Carolina!

When Sherry went horse-shopping 26 years ago, little did she know that she'd find the horse *and* the man of her dreams!

Sherry said, "What started as long phone calls with Mykola before we got together to sign the purchase papers for Playtime, then turned into him asking me out for a date! I don't know who was more handsome, Mykola or Playtime! Long story short, I fell in love head over heels with horse and man!"



Follow TDF on social media!



The Dressage Foundation
(402) 434-8585
info@dressagefoundation.org
www.dressagefoundation.org