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SMDA Newsletter

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SMDA News and Updates



Ready for Show Season?

Spring Tune-up Clinic with Leslie de Grandmaison

Spring is here, and it's time to get ready for 2016 show season! Some of us have been fortunate enough to train in Florida for the winter, and others have been dutifully training at an indoor arena. Others are looking warily at those white breeches and wondering if they will fit . . . A good way to kick-start the season is to head up to Scarlet Day Farm on Saturday, April 30 for a clinic with Leslie de Grandmaison. Leslie has ridden and trained horses for more than 25 years while studying with some of the world's best dressage masters and clinicians. She is a USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist, a USDF "L" graduate with distinction, and is British Horse Society Assistant Instructor Certified.

Leslie has judged SMDA and other shows in Maine, and she is a popular clinician and instructor. She offers a balanced and systematic approach that creates happy, healthy and successful horse and rider teams, placing strong emphasis on correct rider position and appropriate advancement.

We're planning a fun and informal clinic at Scarlet Day Farm (163 Center Road, Gray Maine), including a pot-luck lunch and discussion. Beverages, including morning coffee, water and sodas will be available. Day stalls available.

- **Rider fees:** \$115 for SMDA members, \$125 non-members. Entry forms posted on SMDA website www.mainedressage.com
- **Auditors:** \$5 SMDA members, \$10 non-members, payable at the door. Bring something for pot luck and an extra chair if you have one.



January 1st:
Normal Women vow to get fit for bathing suit season.

Dressage Queens vow to get fit because
no bathing suit in the world is as revealing as white
show breeches.

"I told you that fudge
was a bad idea.
I was just looking out
for you."



SMDA Year End Awards Reminder

- You must be an SMDA member at the time the scores are earned. Make sure to renew your membership before the first show!
- You need FOUR different scores (per test) from FOUR different Judges. Plan your show schedule accordingly.
- At least TWO of the scores must be from regular SMDA Shows (schooling shows or our recognized show). The other two may be from one of our affiliate shows.

Please note that two of our affiliate shows (SPHO and AHAM) are holding their shows at the Hollis Equestrian Park – so not all HEP shows are SMDA sponsored shows! The regular SMDA shows are on May 22, July 17 (Recognized Show), August 21, and September 18. Check out the show listings in the Equine Edition directory – at the top of the show page it will say “State of Maine Dressage Association.” If you have any questions, please contact our awards coordinator Robyn Cuffey robyn@sacoriver.net.

Equine Edition Show Directory

All of the regular SMDA shows and affiliate shows are listed in the Equine Edition show directory. The show directories were mailed out in late January to everyone who renewed/joined SMDA by December 31. After this date, we process memberships on a monthly basis so it may take a while to get your Equine Edition directory. If you haven't received an email confirming your membership and your show directory, please let us know and we'll check on your status!

SMDA Schooling Shows

We'll be holding three regular schooling shows and one USDF/USEF Recognized Show. Details on the shows are included in the Equine Edition show directory. We have some great judges this year – a combination of new and familiar: Melanie Cerny (L), Laura Mitchell (L), and Susan Edelen.

SMDA USDF/USEF Recognized Show

On July 17 SMDA will host its second USDF/USEF Level I Recognized Show at the Hollis Equestrian Park. Last year's show was a huge success, despite the steep learning curve and many anxious hours spent sorting through rules and requirements. We had a lot of positive feedback about the show, which was a great opportunity for Maine riders to participate in a local 1-day show and earn scores in a relaxed and familiar environment.

This year our judge is Charlotte Trentelman (S). Charlotte is from Florida, but familiar to many Maine riders as she periodically comes to Maine for judging or clinics. We're looking forward to another successful day. We'll once again be offering “Opportunity Class” rides at Training and First Level for riders who are solely interested in scores for SMDA awards. The entry form and requirements for the recognized show are more complex – please refer to the February 2015 SMDA Newsletter, which includes detailed information (available on our website).



Reminder – Don't forget to get your Coggins test! To participate in the regular SMDA shows, you must provide proof of negative Coggins test within 12 months (of the day of the show) for in-state horses, and 6 months for out-of-state horses. We no longer require proof of rabies or other vaccinations. Your show entry will not be processed until all paperwork is complete, so please don't forget to schedule your vet appointment!

SMDA Affiliate Shows

There is a good selection of affiliate shows that supplement the regular SMDA Schooling Shows. We've worked hard to coordinate with the show sponsors to establish dates and select judges that will give our riders the best opportunity to broaden their show experience and get scores from different judges at different venues.

Vienna Farm:

Vienna Farm is a familiar venue for many of us, as they have hosted SMDA affiliate shows in the past and many of our regular riders come from this barn. This year, Vienna Farm will host an affiliated show June 5th at their farm in Gorham, ME. The show will be held in the outdoor arena, with the warm-up area in the indoor – unless it is raining and it will be the opposite! The judge for this year's show is Jane Tremlett (L), who is a familiar face at SMDA. The Vienna Farm youth group will sponsor a food booth to help raise money for various activities.



SPHO:

The Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of Maine (SPHO) has hosted SMDA affiliated shows for many years. The show has a dual purpose – it's a fundraiser for SPHO to help support the club's various activities, and it also serves as a venue to raise awareness of the Standardbred breed and how versatile these horses are. The show is open to all, but typically includes a number of riders showing off their Standardbred horses. This year Standardbred Only Intro B is added to the class list. A high score Standardbred award is presented. The SPHO show is held at the Hollis Equestrian Park, and is June 12 with Patti Swan judging.



Scarlet Day Farm:

One of our new affiliates this year is Scarlet Day Farm, conveniently located in Gray, ME (near the turnpike exit and Route 202). The semi-private facility opened its doors in October 2015, and has since filled the 22 stall barn with equine & dressage enthusiasts and is home to Laura Noyes Dressage and her students. The team will host three shows for the 2016 season, and will offer pre-show trailer-in sessions with Laura the day before each show. The shows will be held in the regulation sized outdoor arena which has excellent footing and accessibility for spectators. The coverall indoor arena will be used for warmup and ample/easy-access parking is available for small and large trailers.



Shows are July 10 (Judge Sandra Beaulieu); August 14 (Judge TBA), and September 11 (Judge Christina Keim). The team is excited to host their first shows at their new location, and hopes for a successful season!



Ridgewood Equestrian Center:

Ridgewood Equestrian Center affiliated with SMDA for the first time last year, and we're pleased to have them back in the circuit this year. Located in Wilton, ME, it's about an hour-and-a-half drive from Greater Portland, but worth the trip. A beautiful facility with indoor and outdoor arenas, the show is held rain or shine. Stabling is available for riders who want to go the day before or arrange for a day stall. The 2016 show is June 19 with Judge Paula Foote.





Breezy Meadows Equestrian:

Breezy Meadows is affiliating four shows with SMDA this year! This is a great location in Saco, ME which is convenient for many SMDA members. There is lots of parking (open field), and for warm-up riders can use the field adjacent to the barn or the indoor arena. Food is available. The show dates are May 29 (Judge Sandra Beaulieu); June 26 (Judge Yvonn



Coleman-Larsen); September 4 (Judge Patti Swan); and October 23 (Judge Adam Cropper). Breezy Meadows' shows are fun as they also include jumping classes (held in the field) – it's nice to watch the bravery out there from the safety of the dressage arena!

CMDA Kur for the Cure Show:

Once again, Central Maine Dressage Association is affiliating their Kür for the Cure show with SMDA. We're happy to support CMDA in this worthy cause. The Kür for the Cure is a fundraising event for the Patrick Dempsey Center for Hope and Healing. It's a regular dressage show, and your scores count towards SMDA year-end awards. But in addition to the regular classes, the highlight of the show is the Musical Freestyle class. Riders are encouraged to wear pink-themed costumes to show their support for the cause and have some fun! The show has been very successful raising money, and is a great opportunity to support a good cause while relaxing and having a good time. This year's Kür for the Cure show is August 6 at the beautiful Snowfields facility in Pownal, ME. The 2016 judge is Sandra Beaulieu.



Arabian Horse Association of Maine (AHAME)

The Arabian Horse Association of Maine (AHAME) is hosting its first open dressage show at the Hollis Equestrian Park on October 16. Show Manager, SMDA member, and president of AHAME, Rebecca Nelson, hopes to help promote dressage and the Arabian breed. Dressage has experienced tremendous growth at the Arabian regional and national level, doubling over the past 15 years. AHAME's goal for the October 15 show is to provide an environment where riders and horses of all levels can compete and encourage Arabian owners to explore the discipline.



Savage Photos



The Dressage Foundation

TDF: *Your Source for Support*

Thanks to generous donors, grants are available for:



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Judges
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Adult Amateurs
Youth
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Organizations and USDF GMOs

Visit dressagefoundation.org
and click on "Support" or call
(402) 434-8585 to donate.

The Dressage Foundation's donors provide support to improve dressage in the United States.

Your donation helps to build a stronger, more accomplished dressage community.



Photo by Susan J Stickle:
Olivia LaGoy-Weltz,
2015 Lavell Advanced
Prize Recipient

Your contribution to The Dressage Foundation is an investment in your dressage community. Thank you!

SMDA 2016 Grant Award

SMDA is pleased to announce that this year's grant award has been given to the Hollis Equestrian Park (HEP). The grant is earmarked to assist with HEP's fundraising effort to upgrade the arena fence. We are fortunate to have such a nice facility for our shows and are pleased to be able to support HEP with this effort. The SMDA Board felt this was a very worthy cause, and voted to increase the amount of this year's grant to show our appreciation for the HEP. A \$2,000 check was very gratefully received by the HEP Board of Directors.

Hollis Equestrian Park Clean-up-Day

Speaking of the HEP, a spring clean-up day is being planned for Saturday April 16 from 8AM - noon. The back-up rain date is Sunday April 17. We need "all hands on deck" to pick up branches and litter, cut brush, and perform a general cleanup of the grounds as well as the manager and judges booths. Please come and spend an hour or two and help us.



The Judge's Perspective - Q&A with Laura Mitchell (L)



Getting ready for show season? We had the chance to speak with Laura Mitchell to get her perspective. Laura is a USDF Bronze and Silver medalist, and USDF “L Program” graduate with distinction. She is the owner of Beltane Farm in York, Maine. She has enjoyed competing her FEI horse “Oscar” while bringing along her young mare, Emma.

How quickly does a judge form a first impression? The judge forms an initial impression as soon as we enter the ring. Laura likes to see a happy, relaxed horse that is in harmony with their rider. She swears she can tell if the horse is smiling!

What should riders avoid? Laura notes that one thing that does NOT impress her is an overly ornate salute. A crisp and tidy

salute will create a better impression.

What about grooming and turnout? As a judge, this is seen as a sign of respect – for the horse, for the judge, and for the craft of dressage. It’s important that an effort has been made. And about “bling” – a little sparkle can be attractive if it’s tastefully done, but a lot of bling is distracting. We need to remember that the horse should be the focal point.

Do you see riders showing at the appropriate level? Laura’s response to this question was positive. She’s been pleased to see the vast majority of schooling show riders showing their horse at a level appropriate for their training. She did, however, have a comment about Freestyle tests. “Remember, you are supposed to have successfully shown at the highest test within that level before you do a Freestyle. If you’re doing a Third Level Freestyle, make sure you’re not doing leg yields instead of renvers!”

My horse is only an average mover, and I feel like I’m being penalized! Laura acknowledged that the quality of the horse’s gaits does impact the score. But even an average mover can score well. Extra focus on accuracy and consistency can easily ensure decent scores in the mid-60’s. In fact, fancy moving horses may be hard to contain and keep consistent, may be difficult for riders to sit. It’s a good reminder that each time we ride a test, the judge sits in the booth with an open mind, and truly wants us to succeed. A relaxed and happy horse executing an accurate and well balanced movement will be rewarded appropriately.

