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## *SMDA Newsletter*

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# SMDA News and Updates

Spring and Show Season are Officially Here!

## **Show season is off and running!**

We held our first SMDA Schooling Show on May 22. The next SMDA Show is the USDF/USEF Recognized Show on July 17. We then have 2 more Schooling Shows on August 21 and September 18. We also have a great line-up of SMDA Affiliated Shows. Check the Equine Edition show directory or SMDA's website for the full schedule and links to entry forms and other information – [www.mainedressage.com](http://www.mainedressage.com).

With our first Schooling Show complete, we're gearing up for the USDF/USEF Recognized Show. Last year was our first attempt at a Recognized Show, and it was a big success. It's a lot of work, and the rules and requirements are much more complex than for our Schooling Shows, but we're hoping that things will run smoothly this year as well.

## **Saddle Fit Demo at Recognized Show**

Fit-Right Saddlery will be exhibiting at the July 17 Recognized Show, and will be offering saddle evaluations and fittings to our competitors. Fit-Right Saddlery is an authorized dealer for Albion, Sommer and DP saddles, and also fits and flocks all brands of dressage saddles. They also sell DeNiro boots and other horse accessories – stop by the van and check them out. If you are interested in a saddle fitting, please contact them in advance to schedule – email [ann@mysaddlefitter.com](mailto:ann@mysaddlefitter.com).

## **Need an idea for a Capstone Project?**

Do you love horses? The sport of dressage? Are you interested in horse show management and other aspects of running a non-profit corporation? SMDA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to the sport of dressage, with an emphasis on supporting newcomers to the sport. We have lots of opportunities, including Junior Board membership, volunteer coordination, and horse show management. While all of us work on our riding skills, operating SMDA involves a different skill set, including business and finance; social media, marketing and communications; and member coordination/personnel management. Getting involved in SMDA's operations might be an interesting choice for a high school Capstone Project! There are lots of opportunities to create a Capstone Project that would be fun and educational, and it's a great opportunity to learn more about the horse world from behind the scenes.

### **Important Note about Rhino/Flu Vaccination!**

Please note that if you are planning to ride in our July 17 Recognized Show, you need to provide proof of Rhino/Flu vaccination within 6 months of the date of the show. This is a new USEF Rule, and we missed including this requirement in our Directory/Omnibus show listing. The OPL Prize List has been updated, and we've posted announcements on Facebook and on our website. If you've already sent in an entry, don't worry! We won't hold up processing your entry – but you need to either mail the paperwork to the Show Secretary or bring it to the show.

# Show Report: May 22 SMDA Schooling Show

SMDA's show season began on May 22 with our first regular Schooling Show at the Hollis Equestrian Park. It was a busy day, and the show was filled within 2 weeks of opening date. There were a few scratches; however, and most of the riders on the wait list were able to get in.

Our Show Secretary was Stacey Beneck and our Show Manager was Kris Gould. Both of these highly competent

women did a fabulous job organizing the show, and things went smoothly. It was perfect horse show weather – not too hot, and an overcast sky.

We had rides from Intro through Fourth Level, with LOTS of First Level rides. It was exciting to see Allison Cox ride a Fourth Level test and Clair Decker made her debut at Third Level. We've watched both of these young women move up the levels and it was fun to see how much progress they've made.

During the lunch break, Sharyn Cola of Easy Motion Equine Bodywork gave an equine massage demonstration. Abigail Kovak's horse "Ras" was the lucky recipient of the demo massage, and he seemed to thoroughly enjoy it. In fact, he looked pretty darned relaxed and sleepy by the end of his session! Sharyn showed us how to identify tight spots in our horses' musculature, and a few techniques that we can use at home to help them loosen up.



Our High Point Senior went to Elizabeth Sanborn – it was nice to see her back in the ring again! And the High Point Junior ribbon went to Lily Drew. Congratulations to both! The full listing of scores is posted on SMDA's website and will be published in the Horse's Maine.

## Splitting Classes

Why are some classes pinned together as one group, and others split into Junior and Senior? From SMDA's Show Policies:

- If there are more than 8-10 riders in a class, we will split the class into two classes – Juniors and Seniors – provided there are a minimum of three riders in each JR/SR category.
- The class runs normally (Juniors and Seniors ride together); however, the two groups are placed and pinned separately.
- SMDA's definition of a Junior Rider is: A rider is a Junior Rider until the end of the calendar year in which he or she turns 21.



We tried something different and hosted a Tack Swap at the show. This was a bit of an experiment, and it was great to see how many people showed up with things to sell



# HEP Cleanup Day



SMDA members came out for Spring Cleanup Day at the Hollis Equestrian Park (HEP) on April 16. The HEP is maintained by a small group of dedicated volunteers, who were most grateful to have this support. We pruned trees, hauled brush, picked up litter, cleaned out the Manager's Booth, and even cleaned the bathrooms 🙄. Many hands make light work, and after a few hours the park was looking neat and tidy and ready for a busy season. Many thanks to Chrissy and Nancy Smith, Kristine Brassard, Abigail and Donna Kovacs, Susan Pendleton, and the other hard working SMDA members who helped out.



## Member Profile - Meet Linda Chadbourne!

Linda Chadbourne came to SMDA's May show with a few butterflies in her stomach. "It was my first show in 10 years, and first show ever for my mare!" Despite the show nerves, Linda and Sami, her Friesian Sporthorse did well, including a blue ribbon for her First Level Test 3. Linda and her husband, Chuck own and operate Sweet Life Stables located in Wells, Maine. In 2013 after years working in web design, she followed her dream and began teaching and operating the stable full time. In 2015 they added an indoor riding arena as well as more stalls and now have a boarding facility in addition to the lesson and training program.

Linda has four horses of her own. Two are lessons horses;

Scarlett who in her prime was schooling 4th and Lola a training level horse. She has

Sami and recently added an 8 year old Trakehner gelding named Corelli that she plans to show next year. Linda is very excited about participating in SMDA's shows this season and is pleased to be back in the dressage arena. "Our first show was so great! Everyone was so friendly and helpful. Although I was nervous, I had a blast and look forward to competing in a few more show this summer as time permits!"





## In the Community: Ron Forest & Sons Fence Company



Everyone with horses knows the importance of good fencing! SMDA recently interviewed Ron Forest, the owner of Ron Forest & Sons Fence Company in Scarborough. Ron has been in the fencing business for 49 years, starting in the building trades and then identifying an opportunity to focus strictly on fences. "There was a need for fence installation and service. I started my business to serve that need and the rest is history!" he told us.

And a successful business it has been! Forest & Sons Fence Company was given the "Heritage Award" by the Scarborough Economic Development Council in 2014, recognizing the company as an outstanding local business.

Although most work is residential, Forest & Sons has built "miles and miles" of paddock fencing, and five years ago the traditional wood fence company branched into the vinyl fencing market. "I'm a farm boy. I grew up on a dairy farm and have been around animals all my life." Ron noted, "As more of my customers requested low maintenance vinyl, we decided to offer this as well." Vinyl fence has become about 25% of their business, and is still growing.

Ron loves his work, and his face lit up as he told us about some of the interesting projects he's worked on. Any plans for retirement? He answered with a laugh, "When they have to dig a hole in the ground for me, I guess I'll quit then!" So it appears his passion for fencing will be with us for some time to come!

### President's Corner

Ahhh . . . it's show season! Our May show went well, and we're all gearing up for the USDF/USEF Recognized Show coming up in July. In addition to our regular SMDA shows, we have a great array of SMDA-affiliated shows this year, and it looks like it will be a busy summer.

This is SMDA's third season as an independent USDF Group Member Organization, and we are pleased to report that the club is doing well with strong membership and things are running smoothly. We're very proud of how far SMDA has come and all the things we've been able to accomplish, and I'm so grateful for our Board of Directors and all the members who volunteer their time to make SMDA a success.

We'll be looking for new Officers and Board members this fall . . . please consider joining us to help SMDA continue its success. If you are interested in becoming more involved in SMDA, please contact me or any of SMDA's Board members – we'll be happy to provide more information!

Have a safe and happy summer!

Susan



The SMDA newsletter committee welcomes your input! Please share newsworthy events, including new horses, achievements, and life passages. We'd love to hear from you!

Please contact:

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