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SMDA Newsletter

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2016 SMDA Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 21, 2017
Duffy's Tavern and Grill
168 Saco Avenue, Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064

5:30pm – Social Hour
6:00pm – Dinner
7:00pm – Awards

Join us for an evening of socializing and awards! Festivities will include a buffet dinner and the year-end award ceremony.

Special fundraising raffle: Horse Lover's Gift Basket and Beaded Browband by The Adorned Equine. Show your support for SMDA and buy a raffle ticket for these exceptional items!

Return the form below with payment by January 14.

Adults = \$25.00 / Children 12 and under = \$14.00

For more information contact:
Cindy Cox at 207-229-2328 or cindycox@rsu23.org

2016 SMDA Awards Banquet

- Adults (\$25.00) # _____ = \$ _____
- Children (\$14.00) # _____ = \$ _____

Names:

Primary Contact Phone: _____

Mail form and check (payable to SMDA) to:
Cindy Cox
9 Cherryfield Ave.
Saco, ME 04072

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SMDA News and Updates



SMDA Annual Meeting and 2016 Awards Banquet

SMDA is pleased to host our Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on Saturday evening, January 21 at Duffy's Tavern and Grill in Old Orchard Beach. This is the former location of the Captain's Galley, where we had our banquet for many years. Under new ownership, we are looking forward to having our "old" banquet room back, and a pleasant and enjoyable evening.

In addition to the social hour and buffet dinner, we'll have a brief annual meeting to discuss plans for the coming year.

We're doing something different this year – instead of the Silent Auction, we will be raffling off two special gifts:

- Horse Lover's Gift Basket (full of goodies and surprises!) and
- Beaded Browband by The Adorned Equine.



The banquet sign-up form is included in this newsletter, or you can print a copy off SMDA's website. Please return the form to Cindy Cox by January 14. Hope to see you there!



2017 Show Season



We have a great line-up of shows for the coming season. This includes three regular SMDA Schooling Shows, a nice assortment of SMDA Affiliated Shows, and once again we will be hosting a USDF/USEF Recognized Show. A full listing of will be provided in the Equine Edition show directory, as well as posted on the Calendar section of our website. Remember, to qualify for year-end awards you need to have (for each test): 4 scores from 4 different judges, and at least two of these scores need to be from one of SMDA's regular shows.

SPECIAL ALERT!

We still need a volunteer to Manage the SMDA Schooling Show on August 20! This is an important job, but you will have our full support so please don't hesitate –even if you've never managed a show before! For more information, please contact Susan Pendleton at spendleton@sacoriver.net

Member Profile - Meet Gianna Avery!



Gianna Avery and her Dad Mike are a regular sight at our SMDA shows, and it's hard to say who is more dedicated. Both in the warmup and the ring, Gianna is very focused and strives to do her best, while Mike leads the ground crew carrying jackets, brushes and lugging buckets! Gianna is a very special young lady with a passion for horses that began at an early age. Now 13 years old, "G" competed her horse Reba at First Level this season. Reba is a small but feisty mare who at 20+ years old has enough spirit and talent to challenge her rider, and the two have developed a special partnership. Gianna also enjoys jumping, but she appreciates the discipline and rewards offered by dressage. "It's the small things, little accomplishments that keep you working towards a goal" she says. "Dressage is very rewarding discipline where you really feel connected with your horse."

Gianna's passion for horses is part of her generous spirit. She has organized contributions to several non-profit organizations including the

Mustang Rescue of Saco, the Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals, and the Animal Refuge League. We're lucky to have such a talented and generous young woman among our SMDA family!



SMDA Elections

Our nominating committee has rounded up a great team for the coming 2-year term. The new Officers and Board is a good mix of current Board members and some new members. There are two ways you can cast your vote:

1. **Vote electronically.** In early January, we will send out an email to all current (2016) SMDA members. The email will include a link to a Survey Monkey on-line questionnaire that will prompt you through the ballot questions and where you can place your vote for the new Officers and Board.
2. **Vote by mail.** If you prefer, you may print a ballot from SMDA's website and mail it in. The ballots will be posted in early January, return your completed ballot by mail to Deb McKeon (address and contact info will be on the form).

SMDA 2017-2019 Term Elections - Biographies of the Candidates

President - Susan Pendleton

Susan is running for a second term as SMDA President. She's been instrumental in getting SMDA established as an independent GMO with USDF and getting the club certified with the IRS as a 501(c) non-profit. Susan began riding as an adult, and was privileged to earn her USDF Bronze Medal in 2009. She is currently showing her 12 year old KWPN Kezar at First Level and enjoying the journey back up through the lower levels. Susan lives in Buxton with her husband Ron and retired buckskin Appaloosa mare Queen.

Vice President – Elena Raymond

Elena has served two terms on SMDA's Board, and is the current Secretary. Elena got her start as a junior rider in the 1990s. After moving away and then returning to the state of Maine, she quickly got involved with the local dressage scene. She has been involved with SMDA for many years, and often utilizes her writing, editing, and photography skills to assist the club. While Elena is currently horseless, her young daughter is showing an interest in riding, and a pony might be in her future.

Treasurer – Cynthia Cox

Cindy is looking forward to serving as SMDA's new Treasurer and will be responsible for keeping the club fiscally healthy. She has many years of experience in this area having worked for MaineHealth for 22 years as a Senior Financial Analyst and currently as the Business Manager for RSU #23 in Old Orchard Beach. Cindy grew up with horses and her daughter Allie, who started riding at the age of three, has been a long time member of SMDA. Allie competes with her horse Enchanted Forest and Cindy has volunteered for scoring at many of the shows.

Secretary – Polly Shields

Polly began her riding career at the age of ten, participating in the Amwell Valley Hounds Pony Club, competing in combined training events, rallies, and national championships. She recently purchased a new horse, Play, a 6 year old Thoroughbred and they are looking forward to their journey up the levels. Polly is employed by Sun Life Financial as an Internal Sales Representative. She lives in Gorham with her husband, Rob, and two daughters, Maggie and Sarah.

Board of Directors

Valerie Cole

Valerie Cole lives in Dayton and owns and operates Andy's Agway with her husband, Andy. Currently they own two horses and have a small boarding operation. Valerie has been riding for over 40 years and has taught riding intermittently for 20 years. As a junior she competed in hunter classes and in competitive trail rides. Now she enjoys riding non-competitively.

Robyn Cuffey

Robyn Cuffey is the owner of Photo Finish Farm in Buxton, ME. She has been riding for as long as she can remember, and estimates she rode her first dressage test 30 years ago! She is a long time member of SMDA's Board, and has been very active in the club, including past terms as President. Robyn is also past president of Maine Horse Association and the National Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization. She is also founder and current president of Maine SPHO and is on the Board of Directors of the Hollis Equestrian Park.

Kristen Gould

Kristen Gould has been riding horses since she was five years old. Kris competed on the intercollegiate circuit for Colby-Sawyer College. Currently an adaptive riding and vaulting instructor, Kris holds certifications from P.A.T.H. Int'l. and C.H.A. Kris finds her greatest enjoyment in riding the trails and participating in local shows on her Morgan mare, Maine Lee Valencia.

Alicia Peters – Torrey

Alicia Peters-Torrey grew up on a horse farm in rural northern Maine and returned to riding about 6 years ago after a long break to raise her children Tommy and Tyler with her husband, Tom. Tom and Alicia now own and operate Scarlet Day Farm in Gray - a semi private boarding facility and home to Laura Noyes Dressage. Alicia currently shows her Thoroughbred, Meniffee Six, and enjoys watching him benefit from the balance and correct movement that dressage offers him after 6 years on the racetrack.

Maggie Roy

Maggie Roy is one of the working students at Vienna Farm and a consistent face at SMDA shows. She has been riding since she was four years old, showing in hunter jumpers before joining the dressage scene. Since beginning her show career, Maggie is now enjoying competing as an adult amateur and beginning plans to work towards her USDF Bronze medal with one of the many horses she gets to ride through Vienna.

Cindi Spear

Cindi owns Black Thunder Friesians where she and her husband, Shawn, breed, train and sell Friesian horses, as well as board others' horses. She shows her Friesians in both pleasure and dressage shows throughout New England and introduces others to the beauty and majesty of the Friesian Horse through the Black Thunder Friesian Experience. In addition to being on the SMDA board, Cindi is the Secretary for the Friesian Events Association, a member of the Friesian Horse Association of America and past President/board member of the NorthEast Friesian Horse Club.

Jane Tremlett

Jane has been riding for 30 years and has ridden dressage exclusively for 15 years. She is a graduate of the USDF L program and serves as judge at schooling shows throughout Maine. She has two horses at home, Corina and Lyra. Jane has attended the CHA (Certified Horseman's Association) instructors' certification and qualified as a Level 3 in English riding and a Level 1 in Western riding. She is a USDF bronze and silver medalist. She works at Carlisle Academy in Lyman as an instructor and horse handler. Jane is a long-time member of SMDA, including previous terms as President and Vice President.

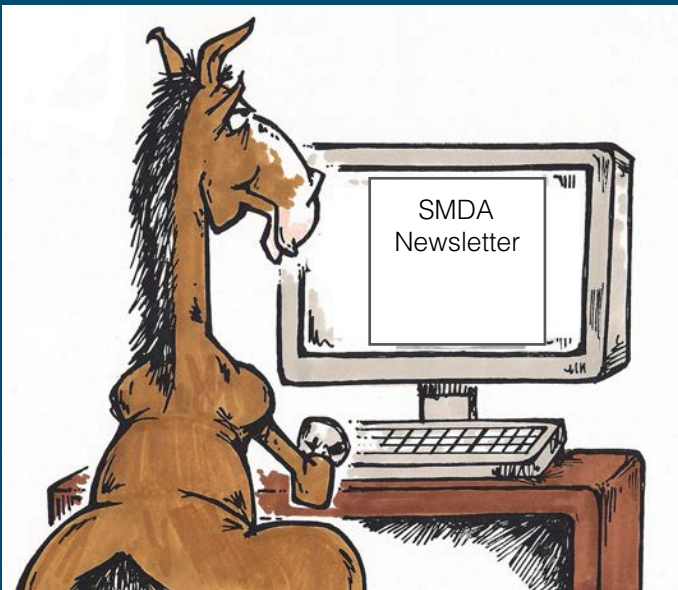
Abigail Kovacs – Junior Representative

Abigail is 16 and a junior at Bonny Eagle High School. Like many of us, she has been horse-crazy for as long as she can remember and has spent nearly eleven years in the saddle. Abby owns a dales pony gelding, Raspotnik. The pair are currently showing at training level, with aspirations to reach first level next year. Although her main focus is on dressage, Abby also loves trail riding, jumping and learning new tricks. In addition to the SMDA, she is also involved in 4H, Student Council, and the National Honor Society.

Important Updates - New for 2017!

To be consistent with the Maine State Veterinarian's policy, we will now be requiring a negative Coggins test within 36 months of the show date for in-state horses, and within 12 months for out-of-state horses. Please note that this policy applies to SMDA's regular schooling shows and that our affiliated shows make their own health policies. Check the show listings in the Equine Edition for the specific requirements for each show.

In addition to our High Point Junior and High Point Senior Awards, SMDA will be adding a new category for High Point Intro award. At each show and for year end, we will be awarding a High Point Junior and Senior ribbons for Training Level and above, and a separate High Point ribbon for the Intro classes.



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:

Tania Jones tjones86@me.com

www.mainedressage.com

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President's Corner

The days are short, the nights are cold, and horses and humans alike are wrapped in blankets and coats! Winter in Maine is a challenge, but it gives us an opportunity to reflect on the past year and set goals for the future. Reflecting back, 2016 was a great year for SMDA. We were proud to be able to support the Hollis Equestrian Park with the project to update the fencing. Our second recognized show was a success, and we are looking forward to the upcoming Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet as where we will honor our 2016 riders with year-end awards and medals. The Equine Edition show directory is coming together nicely, and we have a nice assortment of shows for the coming year. And last but not least, we have several new additions to SMDA's Board of Directors. I'm very excited about the strengths, talent, and commitment of the new team. We're incredibly grateful that these busy individuals have found time to help SMDA. Stay warm, and hope to see you at the Banquet!!

Susan

