



# Transitions

Issue XXIV

Summer 2012

## CTDA Calendar

- \* June Classic June 23
- \* Schooling show July 21
- \* Schooling show Aug. 11
- \* Ole South and Tennessee State Dressage Championship on Aug. 24-26
- \* Clinics listed in calendar section of [tndressage.com](http://tndressage.com)

## Next Business

### Meeting

O'Charley's

Franklin, Tennessee

Monday, June 11

6:30 pm

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## Send Us Your News

Contact *Transitions*  
Editor Mimi Bliss with  
news about you and  
your horses.

(615) 297-3656  
[mimi@mimibliss.com](mailto:mimi@mimibliss.com)

## Ride, Watch or Volunteer — By Mimi Bliss

CTDA's summer dressage shows are a great way to get involved in your local dressage community.

You can ride, watch or volunteer at schooling shows and shows recognized by the United States Dressage Federation (USDF).

The June Classic is a new event at Old Hillsboro Manor in Franklin. CTDA is testing the one-day format for a USDF-recognized show.

Schooling shows are a low-key, affordable show opportunity, whether you're an amateur, professional, junior or child. Moon Shadows Farm in Dickson hosts a schooling show on July 21 and Walnut Trace Farm in Nashville is the site of the August 11 show.

The Ole South Prelude and Ole South Dressage Show are back-to-back, USDF-recognized shows at Miller Coliseum on August 24-26. The Tennessee State Dressage Championship classes are being held at the Ole South. Visit [tndressage.com](http://tndressage.com) for details about our 2012 summer and fall shows.



CTDA volunteer and competitor Susan Anderson & Fellina

## Western Dressage — By Jenni Hogan

Western dressage is gaining popularity nationwide and recently made the cover of *USDF Connection*, the official publication of the United States Dressage Federation. Western dressage classes were included at CTDA's schooling show at Double H Farm in Chapel Hill on May 5 (competitors included CTDA member Anna Whitworth) and will be offered at CTDA schooling shows throughout the year.

"When dressage suits your needs but a Stetson fits your lifestyle" is the motto of one of the founders of the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA). WDAA was founded by Eitan Beth-Halachmy, Jack Brainard and others in 2010. Eitan rode in the closing ceremony at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany. *Continued on page 3*

## Letter from the President



Chris Saia and Wynona

Summer is a great time to get involved in our local dressage community. Whether you compete, watch or volunteer at CTDA dressage shows, you will make new friends and expand your knowledge of our sport. The best way to reap the benefits of membership is to get involved in our shows and activities.

Our members tell me that they value their network of local contacts from CTDA. If you need a recommendation for anything from feed to show venues, it's safe to say that another CTDA member can provide insight based on his or her personal experience.

We continue to receive positive feedback about our shows from competitors in our area and beyond. The Tennessean dressage shows in April drew many horses, riders and trainers from out-of-state. Comments on our CTDA Facebook page included "Friendly, fun weekend" and "Had a wonderful time! Well-run show!"

Volunteers say they learn more about dressage when they help at a show, whether they are ring stewards, scribes or runners. We also have several family members of CTDA members who volunteer frequently at our shows – we welcome children, parents, grandparents and spouses.

I encourage you to prepare now to enter in our Year-End Awards program, which reward you for high scores in the show ring. We have separate awards for CTDA schooling shows and USDF-recognized shows, with divisions for Junior 13 and Under, Junior/Young Rider, Amateur and Open. Visit [tndressage.com](http://tndressage.com) for details as guidelines have changed from last year.

Feel free to contact me at [cnsaia@bellsouth.net](mailto:cnsaia@bellsouth.net) or 615-804-2348. I hope to see you this summer!

Sincerely, Chris Saia

## CTDA Leadership

### CTDA Officers

**President** - Chris Saia

**Vice President** - Michael Foster

**Treasurer** - Luanne Wagner

**Secretary** - Beth Huff

### CTDA Board

Ashley Gregory

Lori Hoos

Kerstin Moltmann-Wilder

Jennifer Thompson

Jessica Roberson Wright

### CTDA Committees

Volunteers: Beth Huff

Membership: Jessica Roberson Wright

Ads & Sponsorship: Jennifer Thompson

Hospitality: Carolyn Foster

Communications: Michael Foster

*Contact information at [tndressage.com](http://tndressage.com)*

## Peanut Butter, Mac & Cheese and More

One in six Tennesseans struggles with hunger issues, so CTDA held our first food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee at the Tennessean dressage shows in April. A collection bin was placed in the show office and we collected 53 pounds of food such as canned goods, cereal and macaroni & cheese. CTDA thanks everyone who contributed to the food drive, as well as a special thank you to CTDA member Micki Brase, who suggested adding a charitable focus for the show.

## Western Dressage, continued — By Jenni Hogan



*Photo courtesy of WDAA*

Despite his western apparel and stock saddle and tack, his performance brought the knowledgeable, mostly European audience to their feet in an enthusiastic standing ovation. He again performed a Western dressage demonstration at the WEG in Kentucky in 2010.

The American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA) recognized the need for classical training to cross the gap between Western and English disciplines. AMHA, along with the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), created Western dressage tests. These tests are available at [usef.org](http://usef.org). The basic test (1 and 2) is comparable to the United States Dressage Federation's introductory level.

The primary tests (1-4) are comparable to USEF's training level

tests. The WDAA website recommends that Western dressage riders seek advice and training from reputable dressage judges. In order to judge a Western dressage class, it is required that the judge is a USEF-recognized judge.

WDAA rules are simple. They refer to USEF DR division rules in the rulebook with the exceptions being the description of the gaits and acceptable tack and equipment. The horses are to be ridden on the bit with light, steady contact. Riders are permitted to ride in a snaffle or curb. Riders who choose to ride in a curb may do so using one or both reins.

Jack Brainard says "There is no reason why our Western horses can't do the piaffe, half-pass, pirouettes, tempe lead changes and do sliding stops and spins as well. These things can happen and our horses will be far better doing anything we ask."

Contact CTDA member & trainer Jenni Hogan at [jennihogandressage.com](http://jennihogandressage.com).



Jenni Hogan Photo: Beth Harris

## State Champs

Check your scores to see if you qualify for the Tennessee State Dressage Championship in late August. Championship classes will be held in conjunction with the Ole South Dressage shows on August 24-26 at Miller Coliseum in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The Championship is being moved-up from October to avoid schedule conflicts with regional finals.

You may qualify for championship classes with scores earned in either 2011 or 2012. 2011 scores are grandfathered because the event was cancelled last year. Members of any USDF GMO (Group Membership Organization) in **Tennessee are eligible to compete in championship classes if they are members at the time their qualifying scores were earned.** Details at [tndressage.com](http://tndressage.com).



## USDF Rider Awards: It's Never Too Late — By Mimi Bliss

It's never too late to reach your goal to earn a United States Dressage Federation Bronze Medal, says CTDA member Penny Lindsley.

A few months shy of her 69<sup>th</sup> birthday, Penny earned her final qualifying score for her Bronze Medal at CTDA's Tennessean dressage shows in April. The Bronze Medal requires two scores of at least 60% at First, Second and Third Levels, for a total of six qualifying scores (visit [usdf.org](http://usdf.org) for details about USDF Rider Awards at all levels).

"My goal was to earn my Bronze Medal before I turned 70," said Penny. "I thought I would stop with my Bronze, but now I want to keep going!!"

Like many amateur adult riders, Penny started riding when she was young. As an adult, she rode on-and-off for many years, taking breaks for marriage, children and work.

Penny began her "real quest to learn dressage" when she was in her fifties. She eventually bought a young dressage prospect and described her early years of dressage with a green horse as "torture."

Penny says she was fortunate to find the "perfect horse" in 2010 – Alpenkoenig, a seventeen-year-old Hanovarian schoolmaster who was owned and shown by CTDA member Anne Echerd. Penny jumped right into showing Alfie, moving through First, Second and Third Levels.

"I had to make a commitment," said Penny. "I had to go to shows and get past the difficulties of going down centerline over and over again."

Penny's commitment to training is impressive. She takes five lessons each week with CTDA member and trainer Garra Walline.

"I will wear threadbare breeches so I can spend the money on lessons," said Penny. "I can't say enough about Garra and what she's done for me."

Alfie is now twenty years old, so Penny doesn't know whether the pair will move to Fourth Level. If not, she wants to pursue higher scores at Third Level, while enjoying Alfie and her other horses at her farm in Franklin.

"I want to ride with grace and ease, refine my skills...and just ride well," said Penny.



Penny Lindsley & Alpenkoenig

## Share Your News

**Transitions** needs your articles, photos and expertise. Contact Mimi Bliss ([mimi@mimibliss.com](mailto:mimi@mimibliss.com) or 615-297-3656) or Michael Foster ([ma1foster@bellsouth.net](mailto:ma1foster@bellsouth.net)) if you'd like to share your photographs, write an article, or be interviewed for a story for our quarterly newsletter. The **CTDA Facebook page** is also a great place to share news and photos about our members and events. "Like" Central Tennessee Dressage Association on Facebook to get the latest information.

## 2012 Schooling Shows

July 21—Moon Shadows Farm in Dickson (Judge: Kerstin Moltmann-Wilder)

August—Walnut Trace Farm in Nashville (Judge: Lori Hoos)

September 22—Chasing the Muse Farm in Arrington (Judge: Debbie Hill)

October 13—Willing Horse Farm in College Grove (Judge: Evie Tumlin)



Alicia Byberg-Landman (bybergequestrian.com) and Roemioso warm-up at the CTDA March 24 Schooling Show at Greystone. Roemi is a 7-year-old Oldenberg gelding who is for sale. *Photo: Beate Kuska.*

### Quote from a Competitor

“The CTDA schooling show at Grey-stone was a great venue to reintroduce my 13-year-old mare to the show ring. I had shown Lark only twice before, when she was four. Nine years later, with the usual circumstances of parenting, work, and equine and human soundness issues, I was finally able to show again.

The stabling was excellent, warm-up was roomy, footing was good, fees were reasonable, judge’s comments were helpful, and the facility and show staff were friendly and helpful. My horse had a positive experience and it was great fun to show again! I plan to take her to more schooling shows.”

*Martha Emeson, CTDA member*



8-year-old Emme and Peanut plan to compete at CTDA schooling shows in 2012.

### Want to Learn More?

Visit [sp4horses.com](http://sp4horses.com), website of show secretary Sherry Pride, for schedules and results.

Entry forms and details are posted in the Calendar section of [tndressage.com](http://tndressage.com).



Cathy Holmes, Lara Stringfield, Allison Loftis & Amina Hamedy at May Schooling Show. *Photo: Beth Harris.*

## Ring Steward: In the Middle of the Show — By Mimi Bliss

When you volunteer as a ring steward at a dressage show, your job is to make sure that competitors enter the show ring at the right time and in the correct order.

“You’re right there in the middle of it,” said Susan Anderson, a CTDA member, competitor and ring steward volunteer. “You get to meet new people and watch your friends show.”

Anderson says ring steward is her favorite role when she’s not showing herself. Susan has a seven-year-old mare, Fellina, a Thoroughbred/Oldenburg cross who is boarded at Old Hillsboro Manor.

Added Susan, “It’s fun to see people I haven’t seen in a while. I can see how they’re progressing.”

Volunteering at shows is a great way to expand your knowledge of dressage, said CTDA member Nancy Whitman, who lives on a farm in Castalian Springs, which is north of Nashville. She has an eighteen-year-old Dutch warmblood gelding, two-year-old Rheinlander gelding and 28-inch tall miniature horse named “Hot Shot.”

“There’s so much to learn in watching others,” said Nancy. “You can truly see that your faults are the same ones that other riders have at every level — tenseness, above the bit, not bending, etc.”

“At the Tennessean shows in April, I had the opportunity to watch riders at all levels, including Young Riders from out-of-state, do their warm-up,” said Nancy.

Nancy says that competitors depend on the ring steward to provide a five-minute and on-deck warning, as well as keep track of the schedule and official show time. She says the ring steward position can be hectic at large shows, but the job becomes easier with experience.

“The more you volunteer in this position, the easier it is to multi-task,” said Nancy.

Schooling shows provide an excellent opportunity to learn the job of ring steward in a relaxed atmosphere with a single show ring.

## Thank You to Our Show Volunteers

**Tennessean:** Pete Anderson, Susan Anderson, Mimi Bliss, Ridley Bouldin, Carolyn Foster, Ashley Gregory, Grace Gregory, Susan Gregory, Amina Hamed, Cathy Holmes, Andrea Keasler, Allison Loftis, Kerstin Moltmann-Wilder, Sherry Pride, Donna Richards, Macy Richards, Jessica Roberson-Wright, Chris Saia, Susie Stephens, Lara Stringfield, Jennifer Thompson, Clyde Truett, Connie Truett, Gary Waters, Noel Whitley and Nancy Whitman.

**May 4 Schooling Show:** Liz Ehrbaker, Brandie Heidenway, Anna Whitworth, Cassi Whitworth and many others who pitched-in to help. Show Secretary Sherry Pride wore many hats to make the show a success.

**March 24 Schooling Show:** Nan Holland, Cat Hoffman-McKenzie and Kathy Morris.

**A special thank you to Beth Huff, CTDA Volunteer Coordinator!**



CTDA member Liz Ehrbaker (left) was volunteer scribe for Sally Crews (right), judge at May 4 schooling show at Jenni Hogan’s Double H Farm. *Photo courtesy of CTDA member Beth Harris.*

## Volunteer as a Ring Steward — By Beth Huff

**Duties:** The ring steward is responsible for making sure that each rider enters the competition arena in the correct order of go and at the correct time.

The ring steward should have a current schedule of ride times, a watch set to official show time, and a walkie-talkie to communicate with the show office. At a recognized show, the ring steward needs a list of legal equipment, latex gloves to check bits, and either a whip measuring tool or tape measure.

At recognized shows only, the technical delegate will direct the ring steward to check equipment such as bits and dressage whips for adherence to the rules. The technical delegate will train the ring steward to do equipment checks and is available to respond to questions or concerns.

The ring steward should watch over the warm-up area and inform competitors of the order of competition. It is NOT the responsibility of the ring steward to search for the next rider. The ring steward notifies judge/scribe and announcer of scratched or added rides, which are provided by show office.

### Tips for Ring Stewards:

- \* As competitors approach the show ring, check-off their names on the schedule.
- \* At any given time, there should be only one rider in the show ring, one waiting to enter (“on-deck”) and the next one “in the hole.”
- \* Due to liability exposure, the ring steward should not adjust a competitor’s tack.
- \* After the rider in the show ring has finished his/her final salute, the next rider may warm-up around or inside the ring, depending on the set-up of the ring.

Being a ring steward is a fun way to be part of the competition! You have the opportunity to watch horses and riders in the warm-up ring. CTDA needs ring stewards at both recognized and schooling shows and can easily train family members to help (**see show dates on back page**).

To volunteer as a ring steward or other position such as scorer, gatekeeper or runner (great job for young people and children!), **contact Beth Huff at [bethchuff@gmail.com](mailto:bethchuff@gmail.com) or 615-477-8289**. Beth can also tell you about CTDA’s Learner Scribe Program, which prepares volunteers to serve as scribes at our shows. Remember, you’ll need to work five volunteer hours or secure \$60 in sponsorships to be eligible for CTDA Year-End Awards. We hope to see you at the next show!

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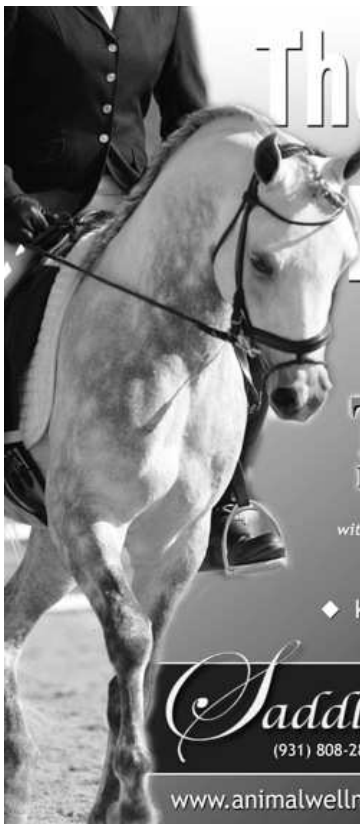
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## 2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND YEAR-END AWARDS PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Return form to:  
CTDA—Membership  
P.O. Box 681056  
Franklin, TN 37068-1056

CTDA is a group member organization of the United States  
Dressage Federation and its members are automatically  
USDF group members. For USDF Participating  
Membership, members must apply directly to USDF.

Name:		Phone:	
Address:		Alternate phone:	
City, State, Zip			
E-mail:			
Status:	Adult Amateur	Junior	Professional
Date of birth:			
Referred by:			USDF#:

Roster info CTDA may make available to other members: ☐ Name  
☐ I am a new member  
☐ I am renewing a previous membership

Membership year for CTDA is Dec. 1–Nov. 30.  
 Initial Fee: **\$45.00**, each additional family member:  
**\$20.00** (Family defined as spouses and dependents)

Please make your check payable to **CTDA**. \$20 of the annual  
 dues goes toward your USDF affiliate group membership.

CTDA offers Year-End Awards for horse and rider  
 combinations, as well as a Volunteer of the Year, Most  
 Improved Horse/Rider Combination and a Participation  
 Award.

### In order to be eligible for Year-End Awards:

- ✓The rider must be a current CTDA member at the time  
 scores are earned.  
 (All horses shown by CTDA rider/owner will be eligible.  
 Scores from CTDA organized shows and other  
 recognized shows must be submitted on the Rider Report  
 Form between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15.)
- ✓Rider must complete 5 hours of CTDA volunteer work  
 per horse and must turn in their Volunteer Hour  
 Affidavit, with signatures, to the Awards Coordinator  
 with Rider Report Form *OR* sell a minimum \$60.00 in  
 ads and/or sponsorships for a CTDA organized event  
 (i.e. recognized show, clinic, banquet).
- ✓See CTDA website ([www.tndressage.com](http://www.tndressage.com)) for complete  
 eligibility details.

☐ Address ☐ Phone # ☐ Cell Phone # ☐ Email address  
☐ I would like to receive the newsletter on-line  
☐ I would like to receive the newsletter by US mail

### Areas in which you are willing to volunteer your time:

☐ Scorer ☐ Hospitality ☐ Runner  
☐ Gate keeper ☐ Transportation ☐ Pre/post-show set up  
☐ Fund raising ☐ Video library ☐ Scribe  
☐ Jr/YR Group ☐ PR/Sponsorship ☐ Club Admin.  
☐ Committee (please specify) ☐ Other area (please specify)

### Activities you would like to see CTDA offer:

☐ Clinics ☐ Recognized Shows  
☐ Seminars ☐ Schooling Shows  
☐ Other (please specify):

### Comments you would like to make to the Board:

See CTDA website at [www.tndressage.com](http://www.tndressage.com) for more member benefit information, calendar of events and current news updates.

## CENTRAL TENNESSEE DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

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**tndressage.com**

## About Our Organization

The Central Tennessee Dressage Association (CTDA) is a Group Member Organization of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and its members are automatically USDF group members.

The CTDA is committed to furthering the sport of Dressage, the education of its members and the recognition of their achievements in the sport of Dressage.

The CTDA encourages all who are similarly committed to this sport to join, learn, achieve, and grow with us.

- - The CTDA

### USDF-Recognized Shows

#### June Classic

June 23  
Old Hillsboro Manor  
Franklin, Tenn.

#### Ole South Prelude, Ole South Dressage & Tennessee State Championship

August 24-26  
Miller Coliseum  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

### CTDA Schooling Shows

July 21  
Moon Shadows Farm in Dickson  
  
August 11  
Walnut Trace Farm in Nashville  
  
September 22  
Chasing the Muse Farm in Arrington  
  
October 13  
Willing Horse Farm in College Grove

*The CTDA — committed to learn, committed to achieve, committed to grow in the sport of Dressage.*