

# Northeast Florida Dressage Association

NFDA is a Group Member Organization and our members are automatically USDF Group Members  
July 2011 USDF Region

## From the President

Welcome to the summer edition of the NFDA newsletter. Heat and drought has had us down and avoiding the saddle but I just got new boots and breeches for my birthday so I'm ready to climb back on and go.

Part of my lax riding this spring came from having saddle fit issues for my two horses. Fiona is uphill with a round barrel while V-Rod is short coupled and sway backed. I tried, unsuccessfully, to find a saddle that would work for both so that I didn't have to buy two expensive saddles. Finally, I borrowed a friend's Phoenix (I hate that spelling) soft-treed saddle that has a tree in the cantle only. The concept was good - it would conform to the shape of either horse - but I could not ride in it, let alone keep my seat at the canter. After much debate, I came to realize that there was no longer a full tree to support my bad habits, such as falling to the right.

I've been long winded above so that I can get to my point: with my trainer, Kathy Daly, we started back at square one for position. I stretched my legs and hips as I warmed up, got my legs back and under me and worked on sitting up straight, keeping my chin up, looking where I'm going, etc. And it's working! I now love the saddle and am able to use it for both horses. Sometimes we have to take several steps back, breathe and reconnect with the basics.

This is good advice for us all. We get caught up in rushing forward and forget about the building blocks of the dressage pyramid. Look ahead but remember where you've been.

Don't hang on the inner rein. Don't clench your jaw. Breathe.

Martha

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2011

July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>  
Member clinic with Greta Wrigley

July 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Spring Series Awards and Tack Sale and Swap

September 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Closing date for show

September 17<sup>th</sup>  
NFDA schooling show

Region 3 Dressage Championships  
October 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>

October 8<sup>th</sup>  
Closing date for show

October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
NFDA schooling show

November 5<sup>th</sup>  
Closing date for show

November 19<sup>th</sup>  
NFDA Championship and schooling show

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Dressage on the First Coast



## Volunteers Are Needed At Regionals

The Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> at HITS Post Time farm in Ocala. The Deep South Dressage and Combined Training Association (DSDCTA) is the sponsoring GMO and they will need many volunteers to make the event run smoothly.

This is a great opportunity for dressage enthusiasts to experience the excitement from the inside. Job descriptions and training are available and you will work alongside experienced people. In addition, volunteers will get a cool shirt, an invitation to competitor parties, lunch and beverages, and other perks.

Volunteers are needed from October 10<sup>th</sup> through October 18<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Barbara Petti (352.237.3744 or [bpetti5570@aol.com](mailto:bpetti5570@aol.com)) or Paula Sheldon (352.216.3950 or [Ocalpaula@aol.com](mailto:Ocalpaula@aol.com)) for more information. Volunteer positions include ring set up/take down, vendor village, gate keeper, paddock master, parking, runner, scribe, bit checker, barn hosts, stall cards, scorers and stewards.

### Riding Tip of the Month

Hula hooping is a great way to exercise your lower back and loosen your hips. Hooping will also strengthen your core, improve your posture and increase balance. I use a weighted sports hoop found at a sporting goods store or you can find them on the internet.

Give it a try! If nothing else, your first attempts may give the folks around the barn something to laugh at.

## American Warmblood Society Seminar and Inspection

An American Warmblood Society (AWS) Sport Horse Seminar and Inspection will be held on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Brandywine Stables in Melbourne, FL. This is the only Florida inspection scheduled for 2011.

For registration forms and information, please contact Vicki Alterman ([valtermahorses@gmail.com](mailto:valtermahorses@gmail.com)) or Laura Partynski ([lpartynskihorses@gmail.com](mailto:lpartynskihorses@gmail.com)).

Observers are welcome and encouraged to attend.

[www.BWStables.com](http://www.BWStables.com)  
[www.americanwarmblood.org](http://www.americanwarmblood.org)

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW ENERGETIC PEOPLE!

Have you ever wanted to be on the NFDA Board of Directors? We have open positions for both the Board and committee chairs. We also need members to help with the newsletter, planning member events, assisting the show manager, etc.

Contact Martha Moore at 904-705-1522 or [planboss@comcast.net](mailto:planboss@comcast.net).

Remember: This is a great opportunity to stay involved and *help guide the future of the club.*

# Membership in NFDA

## by Michelle Velasco

Some of our members are unclear about the categories of membership in NFDA and how they relate to the larger national organizations.

First of all, we are a GMO (group member organization) under the umbrella of USDF (United States Dressage Federation). For that association, our club pays \$20 of every individual (JR, SR and Adult) and every Primary family membership that we collect directly to USDF. Those members become GMO members of USDF and should receive all of the benefits covered in the USDF GMO member category, including the right to show in USDF recognized shows without paying a USDF nonmember fee per show.

Many of our NFDA GMO members are also USDF participating members and hold active memberships in USEF (United States Equestrian Federation, the umbrella group for most all equestrian activities). USEF governs all recognized shows and we pay fees to both USEF and USDF for the sanctioning of Dressage on the First Coast.

NFDA also offers a Family Supporting membership. This membership does not include a GMO membership in the USDF, but allows that member to participate in any NFDA activities except our recognized show. For families in which a member would like to ride in recognized shows, making that member the primary family member or having them join USDF as a participating member would be necessary.

As of July 1, 2011, our GMO (the North Florida Dressage Association) has 100 members. Based on information gathered on our membership applications, 92 people indicated the following interests:

- 68% are interested in schooling shows
- 41% are interested in recognized shows
- 66% are interested in clinics/seminars
- 28% are interested in networking/social events

The Board of the NFDA is aware of this and this year will host six schooling shows, two recognized shows and a variety of social events as well as working to provide our members with opportunities to attend clinics with respected clinicians and instructors. We also have a great awards programs and this year for the first time have expanded our schooling show Championships program to include two other North Florida GMOs - S.T.R.I.D.E out of Ocala and Southwind Eventing and Dressage Association (SWDEA) out of Tallahassee. Both clubs will offer qualifying classes at their schooling shows as well as allowing our members to show at their member class fee if proof of NFDA membership is presented with entries. You should have already received a membership directory and card in the mail.

Below are links to the USDF membership page and the other clubs mentioned here.

[www.USDF.org](http://www.USDF.org)

[www.USEF.org](http://www.USEF.org)

[www.NFladressage.org](http://www.NFladressage.org)

[www.stridedressage.org](http://www.stridedressage.org)

[www.southwinddressage.com](http://www.southwinddressage.com)

# NFDA Schooling Show Qualifier Update

*The following riders have earned 2 scores of 60% or higher in designated qualifying classes and have qualified to ride in our Schooling Show Championships to be held at the Clay County Fairgrounds on November 19, 2011:*

## **Intro B**

Kirstin Prince/Wind Rose (AA)  
Anna Kirkpatrick/Face the Music (AA)  
Sara MacKusick/Something Wicked (O, SWDEA)

## **Training Level (Test 3)**

Lisa Beardsley/Lilly (AA)  
Tracy David/Remember Jasmine (AA)  
Suzanne Graham/Perfect Storm (O)  
Marsha Hartford-Sapp/Cobra (O, SWDEA)  
Melissa Pearson/Gideon (AA, SWDEA)  
Lynda Adams/Vida Allegre (AA, STRIDE)  
Karen Kim/Stripper's Red Robin (AA, STRIDE)  
Loretta Lucas/Gideon (AA, STRIDE)

## **First Level (Test 3)**

Kate Johnson/Seattle Chief (AA)  
Honey Rubin/Austin (O)  
Kate Harrison/Wilco (Jr, SWDEA)  
Jody Simonton/Andy (AA, STRIDE)

## **Second Level (Test 3)**

Lindsey Holleger/Frievenfurst (Jr, SWDEA)

*The following riders have earned one score toward qualification and need one more:*

## **Intro B**

Terri Perrault/LeeLee (AA)  
Scheryl Smith/Hypnotica (O)  
Marsha Hartford-Sapp/Morning Glory (O, SWDEA)  
Sara Mackusick/Nick (O, SWDEA)  
Michelle Velasco/Notorius (AA)  
Casey Knowles/Guinevere (Jr)

## **First Level (Test 3)**

Lindsey Holleger/Frievensfurst (Jr, SWEDA)  
Elizabeth Ralstin/He's Famous (AA, SWEDA)  
Sandi Lucas/Perons Paris (AA)

## **Training (Test 3)**

Kate Poulsen/Reason to Smile (Jr)  
Julia Bennett/Face the Music (AA)  
Kirstin Prince/Ki-Lin's Little Prince (AA)  
Marge Savage/Willow's Dream (AA)  
Hannah Blanks/Plain But Call Me (AA)  
Barbara Turner/And A Nod (AA)  
Birgit Grafe/Artus (AA)  
Lisa Kaatz/Vera Von Friesenhof Altmark (AA)  
Vickie Rollack/Gideon (O, STRIDE)  
Jamie Carnett/Derby (Jr, SWEDA)  
Claire Harrison/Feature Presentation (AA, SWDEA)  
Erica Taylor/Druid (Jr, SWDEA)  
Jody Simonton/Sage Quixote (AA, STRIDE)

# VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Lynda Adams	2.0	Brian MacMahon	2.0
Phyllis Allyn	3.0	Barbara Maletz	6.0
Jill Amburgey	3.0	Dawn McLane	2.0
Landon Amburgey	2.0	Debbie McNally	3.5
Marsha Anderson	5.5	Elaine Millitello	2.0
Kara Argus	2.0	Liz Marco	3.0
Pam Arn	1.0	Michelle Martin	3.0
Beth Balotescu	1.0	Martha Moore	6.0
Sarah Blackburn	1.0	Emma Morse	2.0
Lisa Beardsley	3.0	Denise Moxon	2.0
Carolyn Belcher	2.0	Mary O'Brien	2.0
Julia Bennett	2.0	Roxanna Olsen	2.0
Shantel Brooks	8.0	Allison Patterson	1.5
Mary Ann Callahan	1.0	Kate Poulson	1.0
Theresa Collier	1.0	Pam Prince	5.0
Kathee Cooke	2.0	Kirstin Prince	2.0
Elizabeth D'Agosto	2.0	Terri Rehkoph	1.0
Denise Dale	1.0	Jack Rodehaver	4.0
Kathy Daly	1.5	Dinah Rojek	4.0
Marianne Davenport	1.0	Janet Royce	10.0
Tracy David	2.0	Taylor Ruth	7.0
Linda Dennis	3.0	Marge Savage	6.0
Fabian Densmore	1.0	Maggie Selbert	1.0
Sarah Edmundson	2.0	Molly Sharp	1.0
Pat Elder	4.0	Hellena Smejda	2.0
Mary Farr	2.0	Adrianna Smith	2.0
Mary Giftos	1.0	Ariel Smith	2.0
Birgit Grafe	2.0	Scheryl Smith	2.0
Debbie Hart	6.0	Stephanie Stalvey	3.0
Sarah Hayes	2.0	Jane Steen	2.0
Jenny Holmberg	1.0	Annie Stockdale	3.0
Linda Holmberg	2.0	Gwen Stromdahl	1.0
Elizabeth Howell	2.0	Molly Tatham	6.0
Caroline Johansen	2.0	Mary Teter	4.0
Kate Johnson	2.0	Barbara Turner	6.0
Lana Jurewicz	8.0	Elizabeth Upchurch	2.5
Lisa Kaatz	4.0	Michelle Velasco	9.0
Anna Kirkpatrick	2.0	Bernie Versaggi	1.0
Katherine Kotakaden	3.0	Lynette Wadsworth	2.0
Betsy LaBelle	2.0		

# REPORT FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

## USDF Convention by Janet Royce

First, I'd like to thank NFDA for the scholarship funds which allowed me to attend the USDF Convention and Technical Delegate Seminar. I greatly appreciate the support of the club and the opportunity to further educate myself about Dressage. I've hesitated to write this article for quite some time, as I feel what I have to say about my experience may disappoint many of you.

I thought I'd be attending several days of educational seminars that would help me grow as a new Adult Amateur rider. Instead, I spent several days listening to the speeches of those campaigning to represent Region 3, and candidates for the Board of Governors. In the awards committee I heard a great deal of bickering about Junior Awards and the issue of "regressive award chasing", nothing about awards for Adult Amateurs.

In the Board of Governors meetings, I listened to USDF officers speaking on how incredulous they find the idea of someone like me wondering why I need to become a participating USDF member. (I lack both the funds and horse to ever reach the level of performance necessary to qualify for Regionals, and couldn't afford to go if I did.)

Educating Judges and Officials is important, but where are the educational opportunities for me? Apparently E-Track is there for me. I did learn that although fees are collected from qualifying riders to be set aside for a National Championship, there has not been such a competition held for several years and there are no plans for one in the foreseeable future.

The seminar done by Jochen Schlesse was the only one in which I felt I got what I attended the convention for. His discussion of proper saddle fit confirmed everything I'd suspected about my mare's issues with lameness. She was quite lame when I got her and while I knew that her x-rays were clear from hock to shoulder and stifles, we faced the possibility that she might not improve. Her owner was going to put her down had I not been willing to take her. The very first thing we did was have her saddle custom fitted. That and getting her back in condition after a year of not working solved the problem. So, as Jochen Schlesse stresses, proper fit for both horse and rider are key elements in our health and fitness.

I was very excited about attending the Volunteer Roundtable discussion, as I thought I might come back with fresh ideas on how to get people interested in ring set-up, and volunteering with me at our schooling shows. I heard from members of GMOs far larger than us that they pay their volunteers, or give them free stalls. Those ideas are not feasible for us. There were no members from GMOs closer in size and budget to us present.

In all, I was a bit disappointed, but I am hopeful that as I learn more through my continued participation with NFDA, I will come to better understand how USDF works and the convention in New Orleans 2012 will not leave me quite so mystified and disappointed.



It's that time of year again!  
Time to clean out those tack trunks and bring your goodies to our  
**TACK SALE!**

We are inviting our members to bring any tack, home décor, and other equestrian related items to the Spring Series Awards Luncheon on July 23, 2011 at Black Forest Stables!

This is a great time to clean out your tack rooms, make a little extra cash, and maybe find a little treasure of your own.

So grab those saddles, breeches, show coats, boots, and anything else you have laying around and join us as we congratulate our members for a successful spring series, enjoy lunch with great company, and learn as we audit and/or participate in the clinic being taught by Greta Wrigley.

Make sure to have your personal information and price listed clearly on each item and a place to properly display them (saddle stand, tack hooks, etc).





# IT MAY BE SUMMER... BUT THE TEACHER IS IN!

**NFDA and Black Forest Stables Invite You to Attend:**

**ADULT/JR-YR CLINIC**  
July 23-24 2011

**SPRING SERIES AWARDS PARTY**  
Saturday, July 23 at Lunch Break

NFDA members will pay only \$50.00 per 45-minute session with clinician Greta Wrigley. No charge for auditors.

Ms. Wrigley has earned Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals from USDF and has an international, diverse, and award filled background. She combines classical technique with an approachable style!  
[www.gretawrigleytraining.com](http://www.gretawrigleytraining.com)

The clinic will be held at **Black Forest Stables**, located at 8000 U.S. Highway 1, south of St. Augustine, FL. Black Forest offers a well groomed arena, covered bleachers for auditors, plenty of stalls, trailer parking and lunch/social areas. Check them out at [www.blackforestfl.com](http://www.blackforestfl.com).

Spacious and well ventilated stalls are available for both Friday and Saturday nights at \$25.00 per night. This includes shavings and feeding (you provide hay and grain).



Clinic participants, auditors and NFDA members are also invited to attend the **Water & Wine Down Party** on Saturday evening, sponsored by Black Forest Stables.

Relax and Cool Off, Talk With Friends and Reflect On a Great Day As Well As Prepare For the One Ahead!

For Clinic, please contact Kate Johnson at [kjinusvi@hotmail.com](mailto:kjinusvi@hotmail.com) or 904.327.2923

For Series Awards party, please contact Martha Moore at 904.705.1522 or [planboss@comcast.net](mailto:planboss@comcast.net). Please RSVP by Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.